

DISTINGUISHED SECONDARY SCHOOL SCIENCE TEACHER AWARD: 1999

JANE T. WHITAKER, EDS

Lenoir City High School, Lenoir City, Tennessee

Jane T. Whitaker was named the recipient of the prestigious 1999 Tennessee Academy of Science Distinguished Science Teacher Award. Begun in 1997 by the Tennessee Academy of Science, the award originated as a means of recognizing outstanding secondary school science teachers. This award is given annually to one science teacher in Tennessee who has made significant contributions to science teaching and learning. Ms. Whitaker teaches chemistry and physics at Lenoir City High School, in Lenoir City, Tennessee. The award was presented on November 20, 1999 during the Tennessee Academy of Science 109th annual meeting in Memphis (University of Tennessee, Memphis). In addition to the award and a trip to the conference, Ms. Whitaker received a plaque and a certificate.

Ms. Whitaker received a BS in Biology from the University of New Orleans. She also has earned the MS in Science Education from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and a MS from Delta State University, Cleveland (1971). In addition, Ms. Whitaker has earned the Education Specialist (EdS) degree in Instructional Leadership from Tennessee Technological University, Cookeville.

Ms. Whitaker has made contributions to science education at the local and state levels. Her service to science education is long-term and outstanding. She is widely recognized as an individual who demonstrates excellence in her science teaching. Through her efforts and hard work, Ms. Whitaker has been instrumental in planning and implementing innovative and exem-

plary science programs in her school and district. For example, she has actively engaged her students in the activities of the Science Bowl, Science Olympiad, and other science competitions; she was instrumental in planning and writing the Tennessee Science Framework; and she has served on a number of task forces.

In addition to presenting numerous science in-service activities throughout the state, Ms. Whitaker has made many presentations at local, state, and national conferences. Ms. Whitaker has held numerous leadership positions in science organizations. She served as president of the Tennessee Science Teachers Association from 1990-1992, and is currently serving as science department chair in her school. She has co-directed several National Science Foundation (NSF) Teacher Enhancement Projects, and has served as an adjunct faculty member for Maryville College.

Ms. Whitaker is truly an award-winning teacher. She was the recipient of the prestigious Presidential Award for Excellence in Science Teaching at both the state (1994), and national levels (1997). She also received the Loudon County Chamber of Commerce, High School Teacher of the Year Award in 1991, and was a district nominee for the Tennessee Education Association Teacher of the Year Award in 1993. Additional recognition has included being named as a Lenoir City Schools Teacher of the Year Award nominee in 1996, and she received the Tennessee Academy of Science Distinguished Teacher Award for East Tennessee in 1989.