



Alaska Earth Science Teacher of the Year for 2002

Carolyn Stallings

It is the privilege of the Alaska Geological Society to present Carolyn Stallings, a sixth grade teacher at the White Cliff Elementary School, Ketchikan, Alaska, with the Science Teacher of the Year in Alaska award, sponsored by the Pacific Section of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, from a field of candidates that includes teachers from grades K through 12 from all over the state of Alaska. Carolyn is an exceptional teacher because of her contagious energy and innovative curriculum for instilling enthusiasm for science in children early in their cognitive development. These children are not just learning science – in Carolyn’s indoor and outdoor classroom they are living it. Carolyn cultivates, reinforces, and launches their curiosity and desire to learn with a special talent to motivate the children to ask questions and investigate their own ideas. She is a certified Lunie (certified to request Lunar rocks and Mars rocks), working through the NASA education programs NASA STELLAR, NEWEST, and Solar Ambassador to link the study of earth rocks and soil to findings on the moon and Mars. She has connected with GREEN (Global Rivers Ecology Education Network) and National Geographic's Kids Network “What's in your water” to bring in examples that show the effect of rivers on the land and our use of water on the rivers. She leads her class through “Intrigue of the Past” lessons in archaeology to Earth’s past history. Her students are learning that anything is possible and they are learning to take initiative and jump in with both feet. These students are learning more than fundamental skills to meet the demands of the 21st century – they are acquiring the skills to thrive and become leaders in their community. Carolyn’s enthusiasm, energy, and leadership are also inspirational to colleagues in her school and neighboring communities. We truly admire Carolyn’s dedication and commitment to plant scientific concepts, vision, and dreams beyond the classroom in students, their parents, and other teachers.