

Press Release

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Seagate

TWO TEACHERS HONORED BY SEAGATE FOR EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE EDUCATION

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. — March 23, 2010 — Two Minnesota science teachers have been chosen to receive Seagate Science Mentor Awards, a statewide recognition for educators who have mentored student participants in the regional science fairs across Minnesota. The awards will be presented at the Minnesota State Science and Engineering Fair awards ceremony, March 28 at 9 a.m. at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in downtown St. Paul. Receiving the Seagate Science Mentor Awards for 2010 are Sherry Miller from Lincoln High School, Thief River Falls, and Annette Strom from Woodland Middle School, Duluth.

Seagate Science Mentor Awards recognize junior and senior high school science teachers who have found creative ways to nurture students' interest in scientific inquiry and promote science education in their schools. The award criteria specifically considers the nominees' support of students' hands-on projects and experiences outside the classroom that generate interest in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). There are two award categories – one for a teacher with one to 10 years of experience, and another for a teacher with 11 or more years of experience. Award winners receive a plaque and \$1,000, and their respective schools also receive a plaque and \$1,000 for their science programs.

“The Seagate Science Mentor Awards are very significant, because the teachers are nominated by their students, parents and school staff,” said Lise Weegman, director of the State Science and Engineering Fair, Minnesota Academy of Science. “These educators have gained the respect of their students and peers and have made exceptional contributions in promoting science and influencing students to consider STEM-related careers.”

Receiving the award for teachers with one to 10 years of experience is Sherry Miller, who has been an elementary school science teacher in Thief River Falls at Challenger Elementary for 10 years along with being a science fair mentor at Thief River Falls Lincoln High School for the past five years. Miller was nominated because of her ability to provide a learning environment that excites and inspires her students to take on challenging science fair projects and work to their full potential. She feels strongly that science cannot be taught solely out of a book – and that students learn by doing. Sherry's students have been working (and learning) on projects that are right outside of the school –they are restoring the prairie grasses and pond. She mentored six students who will have projects and

research papers at the State Science and Engineering Fair and two of the high school students have already advanced to the International Science & Engineering Fair competition.

Annette Strom, science teacher at Woodland Middle School in Duluth, will receive the award for teachers with 11 or more years of experience. During her 20-year teaching career, Strom has gone above and beyond to provide hands-on experiences for her students so they can truly experience and live the science that they learn about in her classroom. According to a colleague, “Annette equates science education to two things: fun and life. Skits, songs, poetry, raps, posters, stories, charts, graphs, journals projects, debates, the list goes on, all have a home in her classroom.” In February she taught an entire unit on the science behind the Olympics and convinced her colleagues to make it an interdisciplinary unit including math, science, social studies and English. She mentored six middle school students who will have projects and research papers at the State Science and Engineering Fair.

“It is a privilege to recognize these outstanding teachers for their commitment to generating student interest in hands-on science,” said Bob Whitmore, chief technical officer at Seagate. “They have proven track records of nurturing scientific inquiry through mentoring students, promoting creativity, and reinforcing the practical application of skills.”

About the State Science Fair

Approximately 500 students from across Minnesota will be showcasing the state’s most advanced and interesting science projects at the 73rd annual Minnesota Academy of Science State Science and Engineering Fair, March 26-28, 2010, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in St. Paul.

This statewide science competition, which is for Minnesota students in grades seven through 12, is sponsored by Seagate Technology, Ecolab, 3M, and Medtronic. Of the nearly 3,000 students who compete in regional science fairs across Minnesota, about 500 students advance to the State Science Fair.

State Science Fair awards are given to students with the highest scoring projects and research papers in 17 categories: Animal Sciences, Behavioral & Social Sciences, Biochemistry, Cellular and Molecular Biology, Chemistry, Computers, Earth & Planetary Science, Energy & Transportation, Engineering-Materials and Bioengineering, Engineering –Electrical & Mechanical, Environmental Management, Environmental Science & Analysis, Mathematical Sciences, Medicine & Health, Microbiology, Physics & Astronomy, Plant Sciences.

State Science and Engineering Fair Schedule – all media are invited to the following:

Friday, March 26 **5:00 pm – 6:00 pm** Opening ceremony; welcome by Michael Hahm, CPRP Director St Paul’s Parks and Recreation Department.

Saturday, March 27 **10:00 am – 3:30 pm** Project judging takes place.

- Student Choice Award: 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm** High School select best Middle School project and Middle School students select best High School project
- Saturday, March 27: 4:00 pm-5:30pm** Exhibits open to the public. Student projects on display.
Admission is free.
- Saturday, March 27: 7:30pm – 9 pm** Special Awards Ceremony. Keynote Speaker, Jeff Montanye, Ecolab VP of Research & Development & Engineering for Food & Beverage Division North America. Military/Government/Corporate awards and University Scholarships
- Sunday, March 28: 9:00 am – 11:30 am** Grand Awards Ceremony. Keynote speaker – Carlyle Sulzer, Great River Energy. Seagate awards and MN Academy of Science top scoring projects are awarded.

All activities will take place at the Crowne Plaza Hotel Riverfront, 11 East Kellogg Blvd, St. Paul, Minn. 55101. Students, Minnesota Academy of Science representatives and Science Fair judges will be available for interviews at the times indicated above.

About the Minnesota Academy of Science

The Minnesota Academy of Science encourages and facilitates excellence in science education and encourages active participation in scientific inquiry. Since 1873, the organization has been striving to foster students’ interest in science, promote quality scientific research, and recognize high achievement in science, education, engineering and technology. Additional information regarding MAS and its programs can be found at <http://www.fair.mnmas.org>

About Seagate:

Seagate is the worldwide leader in hard disk drives and storage solutions. Seagate can be found around the globe and at <http://www.seagate.com>.

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