

## **Science and Math Teachers Meet Vice President and Dr. Biden, Receive Award**

### **Awards recognize the best of the best teachers**

WASHINGTON, July 2, 2012 /PRNewswire/ -- Vice President Joe Biden and his wife, Dr. Jill Biden, a longtime educator, met with secondary school teachers on Friday, who received the prestigious Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST).

The teachers met the Bidens at the White House during a trip to the nation's capital for professional development and recognition activities that included meetings with Secretary of Education Arne Duncan and National Science Foundation (NSF) Deputy Director Cora B. Marrett. (See the [White House blog](#) for additional details and photos.)

Last Thursday, the awardees received certificates signed by President Obama at a ceremony at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington, D.C.

"America's success in the 21st century depends on our ability to educate our children, give our workers the skills they need and embrace technological change," the President said when announcing the awards earlier this month.

"That starts with the men and women in front of our classrooms. These teachers are the best of the best, and they stand as excellent examples of the kind of leadership we need in order to train the next generation of innovators and help this country get ahead."

The PAEMST are the highest honors bestowed by the U.S. government, specifically for K-12 mathematics and science teaching. Awardees serve as models for their colleagues, inspiration to their communities, and leaders in the improvement of mathematics and science education. In addition to the presidential certificate, awardees received a trip for two to Washington, D.C., and a \$10,000 award from NSF.

Of the 97 teachers selected for this year's award (see list below), there are 51 science teachers and 46 mathematics teachers from across the country, including the four U.S. jurisdictions of Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, Department of Defense Education Activity schools and the U.S. territories as a group. U.S. territories include: American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

PAEMST applications are reviewed at the state and national levels by selection committees of outstanding scientists, mathematicians, and educators. Nominees are then sent to the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) and to the President for final selection. Each year the awards alternate between elementary (kindergarten through sixth grade) and secondary (seventh through 12th grade) teachers.

Since the program's inception in 1983, more than 4,200 teachers have received this honor. NSF administers PAEMST on behalf of OSTP. The 2011 Presidential awardees are listed below. For more information, including awardee photos, bios, and quotes, visit the [PAEMST web site](#).

**By Discipline (Mathematics)**

Jaime Abreu Ramos, Puerto Rico  
Jennifer Baker, Missouri  
Sarah Bax, District of Columbia  
Spencer Bean, DoDEA  
Beatriz Camacho, US Territories  
Stephanie Cronin, Alaska  
Suzanne Culbreth, Alabama  
Peter DeCraene, Illinois  
Karla Digmann, Iowa  
Alison Drake, Louisiana  
Kathleen Erickson, Massachusetts  
Cathy Estes, Vermont  
Donna Forbes, Minnesota  
David Hartman, Nebraska  
Andrea Higdon, Kentucky  
Phyllis Hillis, Tennessee  
Kentaro Iwasaki, California  
Elisabeth Jaffe, New York  
Tammy Johnson, Montana  
Kathleen Jones, Florida  
Gary Mayers, Nevada  
John McAllen, III, New Jersey  
Angela Miller, Kansas  
Ashley Moody, Oklahoma  
Carole Morbitzer, Ohio  
Stephaine Muckelberg, Arkansas  
Brian Nelson, Rhode Island  
Matthew Owens, South Carolina  
Katie Pemberton, Idaho  
Mary Pinkston, Delaware  
Neil Reger, West Virginia  
Kimberly Riddle, Virginia  
Dixie Ross, Texas  
Natalie Schneider, Indiana  
Katherine Schwang, Pennsylvania  
Vivian Shell, Utah  
Nathan Shields, Washington  
Deborah Snook, South Dakota  
Charles Souza, Jr., Hawaii  
Michael Tamblin, Wisconsin  
Carol Taylor, Georgia  
Karen Thomas, Connecticut  
Nancy Trollinger, North Carolina  
Jennifer Wilson, Mississippi  
Jayne Wingate, Wyoming  
Andrea Wiseman, Colorado

**By Discipline (Science)**

Dean Baird, California  
Katherine Baker, US Territories  
Robert Becker, Missouri  
Gina Bergskaug, New Hampshire  
David Bonner, Illinois  
Dennis Burkett, Jr., Kansas  
Joan Christen, Nebraska  
Anna Cole, Louisiana  
Jacqueline Curley, Virginia  
Chanda Davis, Alabama  
Robert Ettinger, Washington  
Stephen Fannin, Florida  
Tami Fitzgerald, Ohio  
Michael Frank, Arizona  
Eric Grunden, North Carolina  
Amy Hanson, Colorado  
Barry Hopkins, Maryland  
Tyler Hoxley, Connecticut  
Joanna Hubbard, Alaska  
James Jordan, Idaho  
Michael Kaufmann, Delaware  
Joy Killough, Texas  
Mary Koike, Oregon  
Paul Kuhlman, South Dakota  
Ila LaChapelle, North Dakota  
James Larson, Utah  
Vickie Logan, Arkansas  
Judith Martinez, Puerto Rico  
David Mather, Rhode Island  
Stacy McCormack, Indiana  
Angela McDaniel, West Virginia  
Jamin McKenzie, Minnesota  
Lucy McKone, Mississippi  
Rebecca McLelland-Crawley, New Jersey  
Elizabeth Mirra, Vermont  
Rebecca Morales, Oklahoma  
Francesco Neal-Noschese, New York  
Donald Pata, Michigan  
Kara Pezzi, Wisconsin  
Carol Pleninger, Montana  
Richard Schmidt, Pennsylvania  
Gail Schulte, Tennessee  
Julia Segawa, Hawaii  
Chad Sharpe, Wyoming  
Kelly Stewart, Georgia  
Jody Stone, Iowa  
Holly Sullivan, South Carolina  
Joshua Underwood, Kentucky  
Kenneth Vencile, Maine  
Naomi Volain, Massachusetts  
William Wallace, District of Columbia

SOURCE National Science Foundation

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