



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: *Friday, February 26, 2010*

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Henry Sibley teacher wins 2009 Siemens Award for AP Teachers

(*Mendota Heights, Minn.*) --- Henry Sibley High School's Jennifer Nippert has won the 2009 Siemens Award for Advanced Placement for Teachers. Nippert is the one teacher selected from the state of Minnesota, and one of only 50 teachers selected nationally to receive this award. Signifying the outstanding work being done at the Advanced Placement level, this award honors Nippert as one of the best of American educators.

This award recognizes AP teachers in math, science and technology for their exemplary teaching and enthusiastic dedication to AP both inside and outside the classroom. Nominees must have a minimum of five years of teaching experience in math, science and technology AP courses. Other factors such as a size, private/public, rural/urban and socioeconomic background of schools are considered in keeping with the Siemens Foundation's goal to recognize teachers from a broad spectrum of schools. Teachers must complete an application to be considered for this award, including essays and letters of recommendation.



Nippert has taught AP Biology to tenth graders at Henry Sibley for the past eight years. In addition to the rigorous coursework, she is dedicated to giving her students valuable experiences outside of the classroom. "My whole goal is to get kids exposed to what is really happening in the world," says Nippert. She does this by getting students involved in a summer research institute at Concordia University and in a Marine Biology program that includes a trip over the summer allowing students to work with researchers on the Island of Grand Cayman.

AP Biology is generally not offered to tenth grade students, which makes Henry Sibley's program unique. The course goes deeper than general biology, moves at a faster pace, and demands a lot from young students. However, Nippert has seen that students rise to the challenge, have high success rates, and often continue on down a path of AP science classes that will ultimately benefit them when applying to competitive colleges.

"This award might have my name on it, and it is a great personal recognition," says Nippert, "but there are a lot of people involved in getting the AP program to this level of achievement. I hold high standards in the classroom, but this proves what the kids can achieve and that we have an incredibly strong science department at Henry Sibley."

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