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2012 STaR Symposium and West Virginia Academy of Science annual meeting

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Putnam County 3rd grade teacher named Science Teacher of the Year



INSTITUTE, WV – A third grade teacher at West Teays Elementary School in Putnam County has been named Science Teacher of the Year by the West Virginia Academy of Science (WVAS).

Barbara Lavon 'Tootie' Black, a 17-year teacher veteran, received the John Warner Outstanding Teacher Award during the Academy's 87th annual meeting and Science, Technology and Research Symposium (STaR) at West Virginia State University on Saturday (April 21).

"All children deserve an education that will prepare them for a successful and rewarding life," says Mrs. Black, who earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education from West Virginia State and a master's degree from Marshall University. She earned voluntary accreditation as a National Board Certified Teacher in 2001 and renewed that certification in 2011.

"I believe students should be actively involved in their own learning. So I captivate their interests by providing a world of science, such as raising trout, hissing cockroaches, a guinea pig, tarantula, crayfish and greenhouse projects to get them engaged."

The Academy of Science's teacher of the year award recognizes a kindergarten through 12th grade science teacher who inspires and makes a significant impact in the lives of students. Mrs. Black was selected following a state-wide call for nominees.

For achieving the award, Mrs. Black received a \$300 stipend and a lifetime membership from the WVAS and was a special luncheon guest with Higher Education Policy Commission Chancellor Dr. Paul Hill, U.S. Senator Jay Rockefeller and National Science Foundation Director Dr. Subra Suresh during the STaR Symposium and WVAS meeting.

Founded in 1924, the West Virginia Academy of Science is an organization of scientists and science faculty from around the state representing disciplines ranging from astronomy to zoology, and everything in between. Learn more about the WVAS at www.marshall.edu/wvas.

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