



NEW JERSEY SCIENCE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION, Inc.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Local Teachers Named "Simmons Scholars"

Paul Steiner, a teacher at Thomas Jefferson Middle School, Fair Lawn, participated in "Transitioning to the New NJ Earth Systems Science Standards," a unique professional development opportunity this June at Rutgers University Math and Science Learning Center. Twenty-four teachers, who were selected from a broad pool of teachers of science in New Jersey, received 40 hours of intensive instruction in how the practices of science have generated knowledge and theories in earth systems science. Mr. Steiner also received an invitation to a follow-up session at the New Jersey Science Convention (NJSC) in October, where he will be recognized as a "Simmons Scholar" at the annual Recognition Luncheon.

The summer institute included hands-on laboratories, demonstrations, field experience, and appropriate background subject matter in earth systems and related sciences. The New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards for Science were the foundation for the activities, and the program followed current state guidelines for the introduction and use of technology in the science classroom.

The professional development opportunity was an initiative of New Jersey Science Teachers Association (NJSTA) and its Maitland P. Simmons Memorial Award fund. NJSTA's mission is to promote excellence and innovation in science teaching and learning for all.

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