

# George Radcliffe

Centreville Middle School, Centreville, MD

Middle School Science Education

7th Grade Science



2005 Honorees



“My classroom is the one room in the school that doesn’t look like a classroom. This is by design and stems out of my beliefs of what the role of the teacher is. My

classroom is full of computers, aquaculture tanks, and data display boards, and is organized into a series of ‘rooms,’ more like a modern office. The typical classroom is frequently a very unnatural learning environment, and today’s students definitely have great difficulty connecting what we do with the world they perceive. My classroom is both a workplace and an extension of the community they live in. My students are not ‘students’; they are workers organized in teams and committees doing actual community-based work and research... There is no attempt in my classroom to water down the rigors of scientific research. Scientific data provide a justification for math, and my students get to apply their math in this setting. We use technology to analyze data: spreadsheets for statistical analysis and GIS mapping for the spatial analysis of environmental data. My students write; research reports, multimedia presentations, and web page construction are the vehicles we use to communicate. They also have written grants for funding for their many projects. Over the years we have received over \$70,000 for our projects. Students present at local, state, and national conferences (NSTA), and a group of our students have been asked to present their research at the international EMECS Conference in Caens, France next year.” – *George M. Radcliffe*

“George has the talent to not only inspire students to learn but makes them full participants in the learning process. He fosters and facilitates leadership and commitment in all he does with students. With his quiet guidance eighth



grade students have completely planned and conducted week long environmental exploration trips to Maine, New Hampshire, and West Virginia. Seventh and eighth grade students planned, trained, and led three day treks on the Appalachian Trail. And, high school students sought George’s help and sponsorship to form BIO, a high school science research group. The whole community looks to George and his students to create meaningful and fun Earth Day celebrations year after year.”

– *Paula and John Wolflin, parents of former student*

#### Other Highlights:

Presidential Award in Science Teaching (1986)

GTE Fellowship and GIFT Grant (1994)

Maryland Technology Academy Fellowship (2000)

Middle School Science Teacher of Year 2000

Brandwein Summer Leadership Institute (2001)

Finalist for Maryland Teacher of the Year (2003-4)

Recipient, \$10,000 Toyota Tapestry Grant for County Bird Breeding Atlas Project

Participant, Extending Scientific Inquiry Through Collaborative Geographic Information Systems (ESIC) program, U. Kansas (2004)

Member, Maryland Association of Science Teachers

**Years Teaching:** 33

**Average Class Size:** 30

**Classes Taught Per Day:** 4

**School’s Percent of ESL Students:** 1

**School Type:** Public, Rural

**Type of Class:** Self-contained