

Press Release  
November 4, 2011

**Mary Jo Daniel is presented with the 2011 Service to Science Award by the New Mexico Science Teachers Association**

The New Mexico Science Teachers Association (NMSTA) is dedicated to providing a network for educators throughout the state to work collaboratively towards improving science education from pre-kindergarten through college. The NMSTA assists classroom teachers to enhance science education by providing guidance and sharing strategies through professional development.

On October 20-22, NMSTA held a fall conference along with the Environmental Education Association of New Mexico. The joint conference in Farmington was generously hosted by Piedra Vista High School and attracted more than 200 teachers and informal educators from around the state. Teachers attended a variety of sessions geared for elementary or secondary grade levels with topics ranging from teaching methods to science content areas.

A long-standing tradition of NMSTA is to present an outstanding science educator from either the formal or informal education environment with the esteemed *Service to Science Award*. This year's *Service to Science Award* was given to Mary Jo Daniel, who is the Associate Director for NM EPSCoR, a science learning and research program at the University of New Mexico. Mary Jo has been involved in science education in New Mexico for over 20 years and served as the State Science Specialist for the NM Public Education Department and Interim Bureau Chief for the PED's Math and Science Bureau. She has taught in public schools as well as at the undergraduate and graduate levels and was the project manager on an NSF G-12 Program at UNM. She has a doctorate in Multicultural Childhood and Teacher Education from the University of New Mexico. Mary Jo has also served on the Executive board for New Mexico Science Teachers Association and is a past president. Mary Jo is also the State Coordinator for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching (PAEMST).