

Turtle Haste

Outstanding New Mexico Science Teacher 2015

New Mexico Academy of Science

Ms. Haste has been teaching science for 25 years and currently teaches 7th and 8th grade science at Desert Ridge Middle School in Albuquerque. She has a B.S. in Physical Geography from the University of Central Missouri and an Masters in Science Education from Oregon State University.

She is a *National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Certified Teacher* in Early Adolescent Science. She holds a *NASA Endeavor Fellow STEM Certificate* from Columbia University Teacher College. In 2007 she was a *NOAA Teacher at Sea*, in 2014-2015 she was named a *Teachers For Global Classrooms Fellow*, and in 2015 she was honored as one of the *New Mexico Women of STEM* for her contributions in motivating young women to pursue education and careers in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math.

Haste is known for her connections with researchers around the world, showing her students how the topics they study are being explored by scientists. Her students have exchanged e-mails, packages and the occasional video hook-up with researchers in Antarctica. Student work on a sun shadows project—measuring the length of shadows at different locations around the world at consistent times between the autumnal equinox and winter solstice—was the first middle school science project ever accepted for presentation to the American Geophysical Union, the major annual professional meeting for geophysicists.

She has taught the summer program for the *Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth* (held at Stanford University) from 2005 to 2015. She has participated in the American Meteorological Society *DatasStreme Project* from 2010 to 2015 (serving as Local Literacy Implementation Team (LIT) coordinator for New Mexico) and the *NOAA Climate Stewards Educational program* from 2011 to 2015 (with involvement through project wiki, professional development opportunities focusing on climate, on-line digital meetings, sponsoring a local climate stewardship project, and serving on the Teacher at Sea initial applicant review committee).

Her nominator for the NMAS Award said the following about her: “She uses her curiosity, knowledge, and awe of the physical world around her to instill excitement in her students. When she introduces basic and very important scientific concepts, she does so in fun and entertaining ways.”