

**National Association of Biology Teachers
and the
Colorado Biology Teachers Association**

PRESS RELEASE

May 9, 2014

COLORADO

2014 Outstanding Biology Teacher Awardee

Ms. Tamara Pennington

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TAMARA PENNINGTON HONORED AS OUTSTANDING BIOLOGY TEACHER FOR 2014

The National Association of Biology Teachers (NABT), and the Colorado Biology Teachers Association (CBTA), are pleased to present Tamara Pennington of Windsor High School, Windsor, CO, with the Outstanding Biology Teacher Award for CO for 2014. This honor, given annually since 1961 by NABT, identifies outstanding biology teachers in all 50 states, Washington D.C., Puerto Rico, Canada, & overseas territories. Teachers who teach the majority of their career in the life sciences in grades 7-12 in public or private schools are eligible. Colorado honorees are selected by actual classroom visitations & observations.

Tamara Pennington teaches classes in advanced placement biology and pre-AP biology. She has been teaching for 23 years. Pennington received her B.A. degree in Biology and Chemistry from the University of Northern Colorado and her M.A. in Biology and Ecology from the University of Colorado. Pennington will be honored at the CBTA Biology Spring Symposium. Her achievements will be celebrated at the 2014 NABT Professional Development Conference in Cleveland, Ohio, November 12-15 & at the Colorado Science Conference, November 21, at the Denver Merchandise Mart. NABT will provide certificates for her & for Windsor High School. CBTA will contribute a plaque & a \$350 honorarium toward her travel expenses.

Pennington will be presented with approximately \$3000 worth of prizes, including a Digital MicroScope from Ken-A-Vision, 14 photographic atlases from Morton Publishing Co., a World Population DVD from the Population Connection, a DNA crystal model from The DNA Store, and "Demo a Day" book from Flinn Scientific. She will receive gift certificates for merchandise from Carolina Biological Supply, ThermoFisher Science Ed, Nebraska Scientific, Vernier Software, and Windsong Environmental Ed Foundation. Pennington will receive cash stipends from Keith Anderson, David Dean of A+ Microscope Company & Ellie Isbill.

Pennington is described by her colleagues as an innovative, enthusiastic school leader, highly respected, with a passion for biology teaching that has no parallel. Her energy and effort are contagious among her colleagues, who hold her in very high regard. Pennington cares deeply for her students who say that she has had a significant effect on their lives and future career choices. Her students' scores on the AP exams contributed greatly to the fact that this year, Windsor High School is one of only five Colorado high schools to be on the AP Honor Roll.

A priority for Pennington is being active in her school and community. She sponsors the National Honor Society, coaches Knowledge Bowl, and mentors students and teachers. Her impact is felt outside of Windsor High School, as well. She was the recipient of Carmondy Middle School's Teacher of the Year award and Jefferson County's Distinguished Teacher of the Year. Pennington was a CAST Science Salute recipient and received the Windsor Beacon's A+ Teacher Award.

From a global perspective, Pennington has sponsored many student travel trips in the United States and abroad. This summer she is taking students to Peru to explore the biodiversity of the Amazon and to hike Machu Picchu. Her principal describes her as "worldly educated and globally aware."

Very importantly she gives back to her profession. She is the president elect for the Colorado Biology Teachers Association and is an active member of NABT, Colorado Association of Science Teachers, and the Advanced Placement Biology community. Pennington states that her proudest achievement is that many of her students pursue a science major in college and stay with their programs through graduation and beyond.

Tamara Pennington is to be congratulated for being an outstanding asset to her school, her community, & her profession.

Pennington is married to her husband of 17 years, Pete Deichmann. He owns his own computer networking business. They have two amazing daughters, Alyssa (14) and Olivia (11) who attend school in Windsor and participate in sports, dance and music lessons. Pennington's hobbies are visiting science museums and traveling as much as possible. She loves musicals and getting together with her family and friends.