

# *RCA IN THE NEWS*

## **Kaycee Valcourt, RCA's High School Science Teacher, Selected for Fellowship Program in Prestigious New Science Teacher Academy**

**NASHVILLE, Tenn. — January 16, 2014 —** The [National Science Teachers Association](#) (NSTA), the largest professional organization in the world promoting excellence and innovation in science teaching and learning for all, in collaboration with [The Dow Chemical Company](#); [Lockheed Martin](#); the [American Honda Foundation](#); and the [Bayer USA Foundation](#), today announced that nine out of the 200 science teachers chosen as Fellows in the 2013-2014 NSTA [New Science Teacher Academy](#) are from Tennessee. Selected from more than a thousand applications nationwide, the Fellows (listed below) will participate in a host of science-related activities and professional learning opportunities designed to help promote quality science teaching, enhance teacher confidence and classroom excellence and improve teacher content knowledge.

### ***Dow-NSTA Fellows***

- Michele Brown, Sequoyah High School, Madisonville, Tenn.
- Rachel Kannady, White Station High School, Memphis, Tenn.
- Courtney Leifert, Chuckey Doak High School, Afton, Tenn.
- Jessica Minton, Grandview Heights Middle School, Memphis, Tenn.
- Holly Robinson, STEM School Chattanooga, Chattanooga, Tenn.
- Julia Stanfield, Webb School of Knoxville, Knoxville, Tenn.
- Peter Setter, East High School, Memphis, Tenn.
- Kaycee Valcourt, Riverside Christian Academy, Fayetteville, Tenn.
- Scott Wilson, Van Buren County High School, Spencer, Tenn.

“The National Science Teachers Association congratulates the new science teachers who will join the Academy this year,” said Dr. David Evans, executive director, NSTA. “The Academy Fellows are making a long-term commitment to give their very best to their students – and to society, as they inspire the scientists and citizens of tomorrow.”

“New science teachers need and deserve our support as they go about the important work of bringing science to life in our schools,” said Dow’s Rob Vallentine, global director, STEM Education. “Dow believes teachers are the multiplier effect on our young people, serving as an important conduit between the love of science and the connection to a STEM career. We are excited to support the NSTA New Science Teacher Academy and proud to be associated with this impressive group of educators.”

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The Fellows were selected on the basis of several criteria, including showing evidence of a solid science background and displaying a strong interest in growing as a professional science educator. Each Fellow will receive a comprehensive NSTA membership package, online mentoring with trained mentors who teach in the same discipline, and the opportunity to participate in a variety of web-based professional development activities, including web seminars. In addition, each Fellow will receive financial support to attend and participate in NSTA's 2014 National Conference on Science Education in Boston.

Four leading U.S.-based organizations, committed to strengthening the quality of science education in the U.S., are supporting the 200 new science teachers selected as Fellows in the NSTA New Science Teacher Academy. The Dow Chemical Company, the primary sponsor of the program, will fund the participation of 159 science teachers as Dow-NSTA Fellows. Lockheed Martin will sponsor 27 teachers as Lockheed Martin-NSTA Fellows. The American Honda Foundation will support seven science teachers as Honda-NSTA Fellows and the Bayer USA Foundation will sponsor seven science teachers from New Jersey as Bayer-NSTA Fellows.

Launched during the spring of 2007, the NSTA New Science Teacher Academy, co-founded with a grant from the Amgen Foundation, was designed to help promote quality science teaching, enhance teacher confidence and classroom excellence, and improve teacher content knowledge. Since its inception the Academy has provided high-quality professional learning opportunities to nearly 1000 science teachers nationwide.

For a list of the 2013-2014 Fellows or to learn more about the NSTA New Science Teacher Academy, please visit [www.nsta.org/academy](http://www.nsta.org/academy).

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