



Massachusetts Outstanding Biology Teacher Award

For immediate release.

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Dr. Linda Tanini, of Chelmsford High School, named 2022 recipient of the Massachusetts OUTSTANDING BIOLOGY TEACHER AWARD by the National Association of Biology Teachers

Dr. Linda Tanini is a biology and biotechnology teacher at Chelmsford High School, in Chelmsford, MA. She received a B.S. degree in Biology from the University of Massachusetts at Lowell in 1998, a Ph.D. in Molecular Biology and Genetics from Boston College in 2006, and an M.Ed. degree in Secondary Education from Boston College in 2007. Her teaching career spans 16 years, including positions at Methuen High School and Chelmsford High School, in addition to adjunct and lecturer positions at area colleges.

Dr. Tanini began her public school teaching career as a science teacher in 2006 at Methuen High School, where she taught biology at all levels. She moved to her current position at Chelmsford High School in 2012, where she teaches all levels of biology including AP biology and biotechnology. She has taken on several leadership roles at the school, including leading professional development workshops, serving as adviser to the class of 2017, and is the co-coordinator of the school's NEASC accreditation team. She is the group leader for the school's 2023 Ecuador and Galapagos Islands tour.

Dr. Tanini is a lifelong learner with extensive professional development experience that she has leveraged to enrich the lives of her students. She participates regularly in programming offered by Harvard University Life Sciences Outreach, and is a contributor LabXchange, an on-line science education resource, offered by Harvard University. Dr. Tanini has a strong interest in integrating art and science, serving as adjunct faculty member and speaker on this topic. Dr. Tanini also brings a global perspective to her work, participating in the Fulbright Teachers for Global Classroom program, and has worked with teachers from Ghana and India.

Discussing her philosophy of education, Dr. Tanini said, "My role as a biology teacher is more than just teaching concepts. I use current skills and techniques to shape my instruction so my students will be workforce ready when leaving my classroom. For me, it isn't important if every student remembers every detail of biology. It is most important that every student experiences a part of all the different pathways that are available to them to be successful in their lives".

This award reflects Dr. Tanini's commitment to her students, to student-centered and inquiry-based learning, her training and content knowledge, and her professionalism, all of which exemplifies what it means to be an outstanding biology teacher. A special presentation of this award will be given by the National Association of Biology Teachers at its national conference in Indianapolis, Indiana, during an honors luncheon given by Carolina Biological Supply. In addition to the certificates awarded, Dr. Tanini will be presented with a gift from Carolina Biological Supply and other sponsors, a year's complimentary membership in NABT, and a gift from local sponsor miniPCR Bio of Arlington, MA.

The National Association of Biology Teachers and the Massachusetts OBTA committee are extremely proud of Dr. Linda Tanini and all her accomplishments. "Such accomplishments and awards should make not only Chelmsford Public Schools, but the entire Commonwealth, proud. Linda is a priceless member of the education community," Massachusetts OBTA Director Don Pinkerton said.

About the award: Every year, the Outstanding Biology Teacher Award (OBTA) recognizes an outstanding biology educator (grades 7-12 only) in each of the 50 states; Washington, DC; Canada; Puerto Rico; and overseas territories. Candidates for this award do not have to be NABT members, but they must have at least three years of public, private, or parochial school teaching experience. A major portion of the nominee's career must have been devoted to the teaching of biology/life science, and candidates are judged on their teaching ability and experience, cooperativeness in the school and community, and student-teacher relationships.

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