



ANDOVER HIGH SCHOOL

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AHS Science Teacher Receives National Biotechnology Award

Award Recognizes Outstanding, Creative Teaching of Biotechnology in the Classroom

Andover, Mass. – Andover High School Science Teacher Lindsey L’Ecuyer is the recipient of the 2021 [Ron Mardigian Biotechnology Award](#) from the National Association of Biology Teachers ([NABT](#)). The national award serves as recognition for a teacher who demonstrates outstanding and creative teaching of biotechnology in the classroom. L’Ecuyer is a 13-year veteran educator at Andover High School, teaching biology, biotechnology, and forensics. She also serves as the advisor to the [BioBuilder Club](#) at AHS.

“It is an honor to be recognized with the 2021 Ron Mardigian award from NABT,” notes L’Ecuyer. “A teacher’s challenge is to involve students in a compelling, understandable story about advancements in science and science as a process. I tell my students in their work that all of us - educators, scientists, citizens - in order to be successful in science, we need to be momentarily ok with the uncertainty of not knowing where this is going. We need to trust that a diverse group of problem solvers will outperform either group alone.”

Criteria for selection of the Ron Mardigian award from NABT include creativity, scientific accuracy and currency, quality of laboratory practice and safety, ease of replication, benefit to students, and potential significance beyond the classroom.

“Lindsey is an exemplary educator and makes it a priority to inspire teachers and students outside of the classroom,” adds Dr. Stephen Sanborn, K-12 science program advisor for Andover Public Schools.

“Under her guidance, BioBuilder students have been recognized on a local and national level. The NABT Ron Mardigian award is a fitting celebration of her hard work.”

“In her 13 years at AHS, Lindsey has expanded biotechnology programs at Andover High School,” notes AHS Principal Caitlin Brown. “Her mentorship with the AHS BioBuilder Club and organizations across the country to develop biotechnology curriculum display her commitment to science and learning. We are very proud of her.”

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L'Ecuyer was nominated for the award by her colleague, Cara Bak, a science teacher at Chelmsford High School. L'Ecuyer and Bak collaborated through the [Amgen Biotech Experience](#) group at Harvard University. Ms. Bak is a 2019 recipient of the Outstanding Biology Teacher Award, which is also presented by NABT.

"Lindsey is an inspiration to me and others as an educator. She works hard to provide authentic learning experiences for her students both in her class and in Biobuilders," said Bak. "When Lindsey tries out a new lab, she will rewrite the material to make it easier for her students to process and to decrease potential points of confusion. She works hard and is a very deserving recipient of the Ron Mardigian Biotechnology Award."

L'Ecuyer recently began an Ed.D. program at UMass Lowell, where she plans to develop research-based pedagogy that provides special education students with opportunities for mastery, creativity, and self-identity in biotechnology. She believes there is an important opportunity through BioBuilder/biotechnology to engage underserved students more effectively through creative, cooperative, and critical thinking experience.

L'Ecuyer will officially receive the Ron Mardigian Biotechnology Teaching Award at the annual NABT Professional Development conference in November 2021.

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