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DCPS' Teachers Selected for Mickelson ExxonMobil Teachers Academy

JACKSONVILLE - Two Duval County Public Schools' (DCPS) teachers - Donna Barton, a third-grade teacher at Cedar Hills Elementary and Zachary Champagne, a fourth-grade teacher at Mandarin Oaks Elementary - have been selected by the National Council of Teachers in Mathematics (NCTM) and the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) to attend the 2009 Mickelson ExxonMobil Teachers Academy at the Liberty Science Center.

"We are honored that from more than 1,600 applicants throughout the country, two of our teachers have been selected for this wonderful educational opportunity," said Superintendent Ed Pratt-Dannals. "We applaud Ms. Barton and Mr. Champagne for their commitment to teaching and professional development."

This July, Barton and Champagne will join 200 teachers from across the nation in New Jersey for this one week-intensive, all-expense paid professional development opportunity.

During the academy, teachers will learn innovative ways to capture and excite students in math and science. The Academy curriculum works to deepen teachers' understanding of math and science principles by conducting hands-on experiments that teachers can share with their students in the classroom.

The Mickelson ExxonMobil Teachers Academy launched in 2005 through a partnership between Phil and Amy Mickelson, ExxonMobil and the National Science Teachers Association and Math Solutions. Since its launch, more than 1,400 teachers have attended, affecting more than 30,000 students nationwide.

Last year, the Mickelson ExxonMobil Teachers Academy launched www.sendmyteacher.com to expand professional development opportunities to teachers nationwide wanting to hone their math and science teaching skills.

Duval County Public Schools operates more than 160 schools and serves approximately 123,000 students. The school district is committed to providing high quality educational opportunities that will inspire all students to acquire and use the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in a global economy, and culturally diverse world.

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