

Suzy S. Drurey

NERM 2015 Awardee of the ACS Division of Chemical Education (CHED) Northeast Region Award for Excellence in High School Teaching



Suzy Drurey earned her Bachelor's degree in Medical Sciences at Boston University. After completing her Master's in Secondary Science Education at Boston College, and two additional years of medical training at Boston University's School of Medicine, Suzy's passion for education led her to start her professional career as a teacher at the John D. O'Bryant School of Mathematics & Science in the Boston Public Schools.

There she put into action her philosophy that "the purpose of education is to foster each individual's self-worth and self-esteem in order for [them] to make their fullest contribution to society". Ms. Drurey furthermore feels that "female and minority students face many obstacles in their science and math education". It was at the O'Bryant School where, in addition to teaching Chemistry I and II, Suzy Drurey developed her expertise in teaching the Advanced Placement Chemistry curriculum. Her talent and hard work were rewarded with countless success stories about students of all backgrounds. After 15 years of making a difference in the lives of students at the O'Bryant School, Suzy Drury moved

to Newton South High School. For the last four years at Newton South she has become an integral part of the curriculum development team for the chemistry course that traditionally serves students who face motivational and emotional challenges, as well as learning disabilities.

Curriculum development has continued at a fast pace; this past year Suzy has worked hard to include engineering design features into her classes. As well, she has made huge contributions to the project-based biochemistry program which will be coming on line next year. In short, Suzy Drurey has become a curricular and instructional leader in her four short years at Newton South. Outreach is also a hallmark of Suzy Drurey's commitment. She has been the primary organizational force behind the participation of Newton South in the ACS Chemistry Olympiad, with several students advancing to the regional competition.

Finally, Suzy Drurey's contributions extend well beyond the local. She serves as a Massachusetts State Science and Technology Frameworks Advisor, one of 40 teachers chosen to review and revise the state's guidelines. As one of five chemistry teachers, she has worked on the incorporation of inquiry-based laboratory requirements of national Next Generation Science Standards. As one of her fellow teachers said, "Suzy is one of our most valued colleagues I have ever had the honor of working with."