



Press Release

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Contact: Jay Sinclair, OESTA Chair, sinclair.jay@sbcglobal.net

The Michigan Earth Science Teachers Association has named Daniell Poulsen of Portage Northern High School as the 2011 Outstanding Michigan Earth Science Teacher. The award will be officially presented on Oct. 7 at the MESTA annual conference, held this year at Western Michigan University.

Ms. Poulsen is a 2001 graduate of Western Michigan University, majoring in Secondary Education and Biology. She began teaching at Portage that year. She presently teaches Astronomy, Ecology/Environmental Science, and is especially excited about the new International Baccalaureate Environmental Systems and Society class, which she introduced this year.

Her passion and dedication is reflected in the high regard of her colleagues. According to Michael Huber, Assistant Principal at Portage Northern, "Daniell's heart is for all her students...She is willing to take the initiative for the struggling learner and turn them on to science - especially earth and environmental science."

In addition to her teaching duties, Ms. Poulsen is active in the professional community, giving presentations at the Michigan Science Teachers Association and National Science Teachers Association conferences. She is also an active participant in the Southwest Michigan Science Educator's Symposium. In 2010, she was selected to participate in the National Teacher Leadership Academy on Oceans, sponsored by National Geographic.

Regarding her work, Ms. Poulsen says, "I am absolutely inspired always by my students. The most brilliant, creative and fun students walk through my door every day. Each has their own personality and gifts they bring. They offer new perspective and challenge and are constant reminders of why I entered into this career in the first place (even the most challenging ones!). I love what I do!"

Ms. Poulsen resides in Schoolcraft, MI with her husband, Andy, and their two children.