

Sea Lab Facilitator Simone Bourgeois Awarded Teacher of the Year by Mystic Aquarium



Simone Bourgeois, facilitator of Sea Lab at New Bedford Public Schools, has received Mystic Aquarium's Teacher of the Year Award. Sea Lab and Mystic Aquarium have partnered for more than eight years to serve New Bedford students.

According to Mystic Aquarium, nominees for their Teacher of the Year Award have done one or more of the following:

Nominees are educators who have done one or more of the following:

- Shown a dedication to inspiring students to learn about and respect our marine world.
- Gone above and beyond to engage students in experiences that bring marine science and/or conservation issues to life.
- Exhibited an eagerness to work with Sea Research

Foundation personnel or programming to further their own, or their students' education.

- Worked collaboratively with Sea Research Foundation to bring Mystic Aquarium programs and opportunities to students.

"I love what I do and I am incredibly fortunate to work for New Bedford Public Schools and serve the children of the city of New Bedford," said Ms. Bourgeois.

"On behalf of every child and family who have benefited from the program at Sea Lab, and everyone at New Bedford Public Schools, we congratulate Simone Bourgeois – who has been dedicated to teaching and learning for her career – on this award," said Superintendent Pia Durkin. "

About Sea Lab Marine Science Education

Sea Lab is a marine science studies program funded through the New Bedford Public Schools for the perpetuation of real science activities. Historically, this Program has existed as a six-week summer program servicing academically serious students since 1968. The success of the summer program precipitated the development of an academic year program to expose all grade five students to the realm of marine and aquatic sciences.

Since 1968, Sea Lab has been a six-week summer component of the New Bedford Public Schools. Historically, this Program has been located by the sea at Fort Rodman, New Bedford, Massachusetts. Currently, Sea Lab is a marine and aquatic educational facility servicing New Bedford Public School students interested in studying principles of oceanography, limnology, meteorology, physics, chemistry, geology, and biology as related to the marine and aquatic environments. Practical outdoor skills, such as swimming, sailing, and snorkeling are also an integral part of the summer Sea Lab experience.

In addition to classroom exercises, students participate in field studies conducted along the Massachusetts and Rhode Island coastlines. Also, in collaboration with area universities, Sea Lab students have had the opportunity to participate in on-going scientific research. The teaching materials, selected by the instructors, for presentation at different grade levels, illustrate their desire to achieve a balance between the introduction of basic scientific concepts and the discussion of observable phenomena. The summer curriculum is designed to be progressive and cumulative from the fourth grade to the ninth grade. All in all, the current Sea Lab Program is a high interest, hands-on, intensive study designed to appeal to the serious student.