

Urbana School District 116

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News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Urbana Middle School Science Teacher Wins National Award *Janice Hari Recognized for Unique Classroom Lessons*

Urbana Middle School Science Teacher Janice Hari's backyard science lessons have won her national recognition from the Entomological Society of America. The Society has announced that Hari has won the 2007 President's Prize for Outstanding Achievement in Secondary Education, recognizing her unique science lessons.

Hari worked with University of Illinois Ph.D. ecology candidate Matthew Richardson to incorporate interactive ecology lessons for her eighth grade students. "We shared a vision that eighth grade students could do original research. Using Matthew's expertise as a researcher studying insects, students were able to develop and do real science investigations. One of the class's investigations has been accepted for publication in *The American Biology Teacher*," Hari says. One class exercise had students catch insects at home and share their research with their classmates. "Students are engaged and motivated when they explore science in their own backyard," Hari explains.

Richardson is a member of the Entomological Society of America and he nominated Hari for the President's Prize. He says, "As a member of the Entomological Society of America, I was certain that Mrs. Hari not only met the high standards of the President's Prize for Outstanding Achievement in Secondary Education, but far exceeded them."

Urbana Middle School Principal Nancy Clinton says, "Mrs. Hari is a teacher who exemplifies the phrase, 'lifelong learner.' She is always involved extra activities geared toward new and different student learning."

To arrange an interview with Janice Hari, please contact Urbana Middle School at 384-3685.

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