



TIPS Coordinator Aaron Kallas receives Biotechnology Teaching Award

The National Association of Biology Teachers (NABT) honored Aaron Kallas with the 2013 Ron Mardigian Biotechnology Teaching Award. Aaron is the first Alaskan teacher to receive this prestigious award, which “recognizes a teacher who demonstrates outstanding and creative teaching of biotechnology in the classroom.” He currently teaches biology and a biotechnology course at Chugiak High School in the Anchorage School District. The biotechnology course developed by Aaron is a great success with students and has been designated a career and technology education (CTE) program in the Anchorage School District.

Aaron is committed to guiding his students in various research efforts, specifically those of local relevance. These efforts have led to multiple local, state and national award winning projects. Most recently, two of his students were named Alaska’s state winners of the 2013 Stockholm Junior Water Prize competition for their project, “*Potential Lateral Flow Test Design for the Detection of Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning.*” Additionally, this past spring Aaron was awarded the 2013 *Outstanding Science Teacher* at the Alaska Intel ISEF Science and Engineering Fair. His expertise in biotechnology curriculum development is not only essential to his role as a teacher but also as the BioPREP TIPS Coordinator. Every summer he designs and leads an intensive, week-long training course on the basic biotechnology techniques for Alaskan high school teachers. Following the course and throughout the academic year, he advises his fellow teachers to ensure continued success in the individual classrooms. As one TIPS teacher noted, “TIPS has allowed me to be successful in teaching biotechnology and gain confidence in my ability to facilitate the labs.”

Aaron’s dedication to integrating biotechnology into more Alaskan high school classrooms has helped to greatly expand the TIPS network of teachers in both urban and rural Alaska. BioPREP’s success owes a greatly to Aaron’s dedication to teaching and this recognition perfectly highlights that contribution.



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