

**THE JIMMIE PIGG MEMORIAL AWARD  
FOR OUTSTANDING SCIENCE TEACHING  
2005 — SUZIE STEVENS**



**2005 – Susie Stevens**

Susie Stevens has taught for 26 years in the state of Oklahoma at Macomb, Cyril, and McLish and is presently at Latta High School. She received her Bachelors of Science degree from Oklahoma State University in 1972 and a Master's of Education degree from East Central University in 1993, with a Secondary Science Education emphasis. In 1999, she was one of the first science teachers in the state of Oklahoma to receive National Board Certification in Adolescent and Young Adult Science. Mrs. Stevens began the science fair program at Latta High School in 1992. It has grown from its original 53 entries and now, each year Latta is well represented at the Oklahoma State Science and Engineering Fair and the Oklahoma Junior Academy of Science. In 2002, Mrs. Stevens was named as one of the five international finalists for the Intel Excellence in Science Teaching Award at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair. She was also named the recipient of the 2003 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. Mrs. Stevens pride and passion is Latta's biotechnology course which she developed as a result of receiving in 2001 the Toyota

Tapestry Award and the McAuliffe Fellowship. With those funds she was able to equip the school's laboratory with sophisticated DNA equipment and related technological tools. She received the majority of her DNA training through several workshops hosted by the DNA Learning Center of Cold Spring Harbor, New York. In the summer of 2001, she received intensive training at their DNA Boot Camp to prepare her to assume a leadership role within her area and state.

While in her classroom, students utilize laptop computers with wireless Internet access. Susie and her students are featured using this technology in three online video exhibits at the Digital Edge Learning Interchange ([www.ali.apple.com/deli](http://www.ali.apple.com/deli)). This project was sponsored by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards and the Apple Corporation. Mrs. Stevens is committed to continued professional development and for the past two summers has participated in the Oklahoma Scholar Program. During the summer of 2004 she spent eight weeks investigating bacteriophages at the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation, and during the 2005 summer she spent six weeks working at the Noble Research Foundation in Ardmore where she worked on locating the gene for the anthocyanin pigment in *Brassica rapa* using a marker based approach.

Susie is married to Steve Stevens, another National Board Certified teacher who teaches American History and Government at Latta. She has three sons, Jeff, Mike, and Dean Whitworth.