

Dr. Deano R. Smith (Greenhills High School, Ann Arbor). From nomination by Robert Ause, Science Department Chair and Colleague:

Deano joined Greenhills in 2007 and immediately added excellent Physics teaching skills to the faculty. As Greenhills Science Department sought to increase the enrollment of all students and particularly girls in our physics classes, Deano along with Dr. Jim Lupton (former U. Mich. Sigma Xi Teacher of the Year, 2013) developed two levels of first-year physics, Physics and Honors Physics. In addition, Deano developed a new course in "Conceptual Physics" for first year students, which immediately increases the girls taking physics from 50% to 90%. Two Years later he developed another new course in "Earth, Solar System and Universe." He encourages his students not just to "learn" science but to "do" science as well, to pursue scientific questions through Science Fair.

"Deano brings many personal passions to his relationships with students besides his love of teaching science. These include stargazing, the ocean and flying. He has sponsored the school's National Ocean Science Bowl team since 2009 and a school's "flying club" for several years. In service to the greater scientific education community, Deano served on the Board of Directors of the Southeast Michigan Regional Science Fair until 2015, after which he continues as Coordinator for Greenhills Science Fair Entries and part of the Operating Council of the Science and Engineering Fair of Metro Detroit."

Deano received his B.S. in Mathematics and in Physics from Utah State University in 1986. He served in the US Navy as Nuclear-Trained Submarine Officer in 1988-1991 and as director of quality assurance in 1991 -1993. He received his M.S. in Astronomy in 1995, and Ph.D. in Astronomy and Astrophysics in 2000, both at University of Mich. He was Science Teacher, Glenelg High School, Howard County, Maryland, 2000-2005. He was Adjunct Assistant Research Scientist, Lecturer, and Adjunct Assistant Professor, at University of Mich. from 2007 to 2009, while teaching at Greenhills at the same time.

Deano has already received six prestigious awards for his achievements as follows: International Space Development Society Teacher of Excellence Award, 2015; DeLay Curriculum Innovation Award, 2014; Outstanding Earth Science Teacher for the State of Maryland, 2002-2003; Howard County New Teacher of the Year, 2000-2001 (from 300 new teachers); Submarine Development Group One Commendation, 1993; and Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet Award, 1992.