
2007 Eugene P. Odum Education Award

Carol Brewer

The Eugene P. Odum Award recognizes an ecologist for outstanding work in ecology education. Through teaching, outreach, and mentoring activities, recipients of this award have demonstrated their ability to relate basic ecological principles to human affairs. This year's recipient is Carol Brewer.

Dr. Brewer is presently Associate Dean and Professor of Biology at the University of Montana. Her position there is split between plant ecology and science education. Although it is extraordinarily challenging to balance the demands of both disciplines, it is clear from her CV, leadership roles, and publication list that Dr. Brewer has accomplished a highly professional level of achievement in both arenas. Her past and current research focuses on developing collaborations between scientists and teachers, training teachers to conduct ecological investigations with their students, exploring new methods for teaching science to undergraduates, and using new assessment strategies to clearly connect teaching and learning. Dr. Brewer has given extensive volunteer hours to ESA as the Vice President of Education from 2000 to 2006. With her energy and dedication, the Society's education programs have flourished to include recent evaluations of diversity, unprecedented growth in the SEEDS program, and overall increased visibility of education at the ESA Annual Meetings. She has also been integral in the development of the Integrated Science and Education Plan (ISEP) for the NEON program, and has championed the education components of this important project.

Of all of Dr. Brewer's accomplishments, perhaps the most important is her remarkable, inspiring influence on many other people. She has a great knack for bringing people together, educating them about a problem, and motivating them to overcome challenges in order to succeed. Dr. Brewer has contributed so significantly to ecological education that she is known internationally as "the" expert. She has been a stellar mentor, instructor, and advocate of scientific literacy throughout her career.

