



E&O honored for work in STEM

In 2015, Sanford Lab's Education and Outreach Department began developing assembly programs and curriculum units for elementary, middle and high school students across the state. Based on the science at Sanford Lab, the goal was twofold: Get students excited about STEM and give science educators additional teaching tools.

Recently, E&O's efforts were rewarded when the team received the 2017 "Friend of Science" Award from the South Dakota Science Teachers Association. The award is given annually to organizations that help facilitate the efforts of regional science educators and their students in enhancing science literacy.

"Through their work in developing hands-on lessons, the Sanford Lab education team has helped improved classroom teaching and learning," said Liz McMillan, president of the association. "Many of our students and future scientists are more interested in science and research because of the opportunities and experiences provided by and at the Sanford Underground Research Facility."

The Education and Outreach Department is operated through a partnership between Sanford Lab and Black Hills State University. In developing the new units, E&O looked at South Dakota's newly adopted science standards, which are based



Photo by Matt Kapust

The Sanford Lab Education and Outreach team, from left: Julie Dahl, Peggy Norris, Becky Bundy, June Apaza and Kari Webb taking pride in their recent award.

on a national framework for science education and emphasize scientific practices and cross-cutting concepts, said June Apaza, director of E&O and the Center for the Advancement of Math and Science Education at BHSU.

"Sanford Lab is uniquely positioned to support teachers and connect to locally relevant and place-based learning," Apaza said. "This connection makes it easy for teachers to teach, while engaging students. And

that translates into increased interest and achievement in the STEM fields. It's one of the most important things we do."

Mike Headley, executive director of the South Dakota Science and Technology Authority, said of the E&O team, "Their efforts are making a big difference for South Dakota teachers and students. We're very proud of them and the work they've done."

Apaza said that while she and her team are proud of the work they've done, they are also "very honored and humbled to have been chosen for this award by teachers."

But the team is not resting on its laurels. They recently began developing two "exciting and fun" early elementary mini-units for K-2 students.

"We look forward to providing service to the science teachers of South Dakota for years to come," Apaza said.

Happy retirement!

After 26 years with Homestake Mining Company and eight years with Sanford Lab, Kathy "Tuffie" Larsen recently retired as a hoist operator. "It's wonderful!" she said of her retirement. "But I'll really miss the people."

Gary Larson, facility maintenance foreman, said, "Tuffie had a lot of years of service and did a great job for us. We'll miss her."



Kathy Larsen and her supervisor Gary Larson.