

## SEP Teacher Quotes Cohort of 2008

My experience reinforced my belief that high school students do not need to be “keepers of scientific facts”. . .to be successful but rather need to understand the process of science.”

The greatest piece of this experience was feeling like a student again.

This experience allowed me to physically become a lab scientist, to don gowns and gloves and actually do the lab work.

This project has provided me with a very essential and needed part of my growth as a new teacher.

My mentor was helpful, encouraging, patient, informative, inquisitive and downright fun to be with. The experience of being in a lab was beneficial in that it exposed me to laboratory work in a way I have never experienced before.

The lead teachers have been very gracious and helpful at every turn. There are few places where I have felt so welcomed and so supported for who I am, where I am in my journey (as a teacher).

As a result of my lab experience, I have done PCR, Western blots, used fancy-pants microscopes, and used antibodies as fluorescent tags. I have a better understanding of how laboratories are organized and how they function, and I connected with some great new people.

Research is not about getting the results you want . . . the scientific method is not tidy. Things go wrong and have to be solved. Science class should not be about “What answer am I supposed to have?” Science is a creative endeavor, you have to think outside the box. Science is a way of thinking and questioning – failure leads to more questions, not giving up.

I have new colleagues to consult about best practices during the school year. I feel empowered to implement new ideas into my classroom to excite students about science, and (now have) a community that can support me in this endeavor.

What an amazing ride! Truly amazing! I feel so privileged to be a part of this.

I feel like now I can continue with my biotech endeavor with a solid base of understanding.

I also feel this experience has been valuable in putting me in the position of being a student again.

Learning these tools will help make my students more marketable and more willing to be curious and explore.

We have a fun, intelligent group of teachers focused on improving science education. What a great network.

The SEP program has been the best professional development experience I have had.

This has given me a new appreciation for the ability to innovate in my own class.

I am actually counting the days until I get back (to school) to try out all the great ideas I have gotten from SEP.

SEP has really helped me to focus on looking at what I am trying to get my students to walk away with.

I know that I will be constantly using the experience here for years to come, and the connections I have made with other teachers will be an amazing resource.

I feel renewed to go back to my classroom and share my passion for science with my students.