

Linda Stroud, Healthy Schools Hero 2013

-- Manley Midgett, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

"If I had to provide science safety help to a school or if there were a science safety emergency, I would call Linda right away and feel confident that she could take care of the problem."

Linda has been dedicated to science safety for a long time. I interviewed and we hired Linda to teach chemistry at one of our top high schools (Broughton) in Raleigh in the mid 80's. She did a great job for us! Linda didn't just do a great job of teaching, she became extremely active in the profession.

As a large district with 100,000 students at the time, we tried to standardize our courses to consistently challenge students across the district. Linda helped us do that by helping us choose laboratory activities that taught important concepts and principles and also that were safe and gave students opportunities to develop the skills they would need to further their studies in the sciences. Our students excel in the sciences and have a good record of success, going on to highly technical jobs.

Even then, we turned to Linda to help us design and facilitate safety training for all of our teachers. Linda trained as many teachers for us as there are in several states. She was excellent as a trainer! She also helps schools address the need for chemical cleanouts, chemical inventories, and chemical hygiene plans. She encouraged schools to coordinate cleanouts, saving districts money. She wrote a great manual.

Linda has always taken a leadership role in her profession. She became very active in the state science teacher's organization, served on the Board and eventually served as President of North Carolina Science Teachers Association. Later, she went on to become a District Representative for National Science Teachers Association. She has presented and offered free workshops for science teachers for over 30 years. You can see her influence on young teachers went well beyond the walls of Broughton High School.

Even before she retired, Linda participated in about every science safety training that you could imagine. She has more training in the area than anyone I know. I worked with two national grants with rural low-income school districts for about eight years, and Linda provided all of the safety training for the school districts we served. She helped each district develop a comprehensive safety hygiene plan which they still use. In addition, Linda donated much time to helping these districts, even though we were trying to pay her as a consultant. She went well beyond our expectations!

I hope this information will help you select Linda for the recognition. She surely deserves it! Please feel free to call me if you have questions. Thanks for the opportunity to speak in Linda's behalf!