



## **Press Release: Vermont Academy of Science and Engineering**

**Burlington, Vermont, USA: September 23, 2008**

### **Vermont Academy of Science and Engineering Announces the Vermont Teachers of the Year**



*Alexander Kobe*



*Stepahnie Colton*

Two distinguished teachers are being honored by the Vermont Academy of Science and Engineering (VASE) in recognition of outstanding teaching accomplishments.

FOR RELEASE SEPTEMBER 23, 2008

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Alexander Kobe, a Biology teacher at Hartford High School in White River Junction, has been selected as the 2008 Outstanding High School Science Teacher in the State of Vermont. His guiding principles in all his years of teaching are respecting as well as caring for his students and absolutely knowing what he is teaching. He has the respect and admiration of his students even though they feel very challenged by the rigor of his courses. They say their college courses in biology are easy for them because of what they have learned in his classes. Mr. Kobe has spent countless hours before, during, and after school developing the latest technologies for his classes and updating them as new information, tools, and techniques become available. His students do exceptionally well on Advanced Placement tests and SAT's. The other science teachers at Hartford feel they have not found in a single individual the outstanding breadth and depth of knowledge, commitment to teaching and learning and unparalleled motivational skills that Mr. Kobe possesses. One colleague states: "Of all the teachers I have had or observed teaching from high school through graduate school and as a faculty member at Dartmouth Medical School, Mr. Kobe is clearly among the top 3 I have ever seen!"

Stephanie Colton, a teacher at Stockbridge Central School in Stockbridge VT, has been selected as the 2008 Outstanding K-8 Science Teacher in the State of Vermont. Ms. Colton has been teaching Vermont's kindergarten and pre-kindergarten children for 26 years! She has set up a highly effective program called Big Friend/Little Friend where sixth grade students act as mentors for hand-on scientific activities. Because of her concern of environmental issues she designed a study of the White River to expose these youngsters to its importance.. She has also developed take home science kits called "Mother Goose Asks "Why?" that encourage families to explore science with these young children. For community outreach, she has set up "Family Science Evenings". As the students "first teacher" her goal is to give the children the opportunity to experience real world learning so they will be able to construct meaning in the world around them, develop an appreciation for that world, and keep their sense of wonder alive forever.

The Vermont Academy of Science and Engineering (VASE) was founded in 1995 by the Vermont Technology Council, following a recommendation of the Vermont Science and Technology Plan of December, 1994. It was established with three purposes:

1. *To recognize outstanding achievement and contributions in the broadly defined areas of science and/or engineering*
2. *To foster a deeper understanding and promote discourse on scientific and technical matters among the citizens of the State of Vermont*
3. *To provide expert and impartial technical advice to the people and the government of the State of Vermont*

A list of VASE members may be found at

[http://www.uvm.edu/EPSCoR/pdfFiles/Vermont\\_Academy\\_of\\_Science\\_and\\_Engineering\\_Directory.pdf](http://www.uvm.edu/EPSCoR/pdfFiles/Vermont_Academy_of_Science_and_Engineering_Directory.pdf)

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