

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Milena Perez
Dentsu Communications
212-660-6787
mperez@dcinyc.com

Lisa Quirindongo
Dentsu Communications
203-430-3550
lquirindongo@dcinyc.com

**KNOWLES SCIENCE TEACHING FOUNDATION
FELLOWS GARNER STRING OF ACCOLADES FROM
TEACHER OF THE YEAR TO PARTICIPATION IN
SOUTH POLE EXPEDITION**

**Science and Mathematics High School Students from the
Southeast to the Northwest Feel the Impact**

Moorestown, NJ, March 13, 2009 — The Knowles Science Teaching Foundation (KSTF), a national advocate for improving the quality of high school science and mathematics teaching, congratulates KSTF Fellows whose impressive accomplishments in and outside the classroom are receiving attention on the national and local level. The KSTF Fellows' achievements in the first months of 2009 include a high school's Teacher of the Year; 1st Place national student competition honors; 1st place in a chemistry lesson planning competition; and participation in a prestigious South Pole research expedition.

One KSTF Fellow has led her engineering students in Grand Rapids, Michigan to build an award-winning device to help a teacher who has lost his hand type faster and more accurately, while another is helping students and teachers in Alpharetta, Georgia to have the right tools to take on Georgia's new mathematics curriculum. KSTF Fellows are developing inquiry-based curricula in chemistry and in polar science to get many more students nationwide interested in and excited about learning science and mathematics.

"We are proud of this extraordinary group of teachers," said Dr. Angelo Collins, KSTF's Executive Director. "By celebrating their achievements we hope to inspire our nation's communities to recognize and respect all great teachers committed to their incredibly demanding profession."

A short list of the KSTF Fellows accomplishments in the first three months of 2009:

Jeanine Gasper, physics teacher at Catholic Central High School in **Grand Rapids, Michigan**, developed an engineering curriculum for her students that led to the creation of the Handy Typer device, the 1st place winner at the JETS (Junior Engineering Technological Society) national competition.

Emily Kennedy, the youngest mathematics teacher at Alpharetta High School in **Alpharetta, Georgia** was named her school's 2008 Teacher of the Year and co-chair of the school's mathematics department. As part of the KSTF-sponsored summer professional development course, Ms. Kennedy gathered materials and researched methods to ensure a smooth transition to the new Georgia Performance Standards for her class and the school's entire mathematics department.

Casey O'Hara, National Board Certified physics teacher at Carlmont High School in **Belmont, California**, will be the sole U.S. teacher to travel to the South Pole in 2009 to take part in the construction of IceCube, the world's largest telescope built to detect neutrino particles and the biggest research project ever attempted in Antarctica. Five additional KSTF Fellows, including **Katherine Shirey**, physics teacher at Washington-Lee High School in **Arlington, Virginia**, will aid in the development of a polar science curriculum. Mr. O'Hara and Ms. Shirey, who will go to the South Pole in 2010, will work with the 100-strong KSTF Fellows countrywide network to implement the curriculum into the nation's classrooms.

Andrew Wild, chemistry and physics teacher at San Lorenzo High School in **San Lorenzo, California**, was awarded 1st place in a lesson planning competition sponsored by the Chemical Education Foundation. Mr. Wild's "Structure of Matter" lesson series, which grew out of a KSTF-sponsored scientific modeling workshop, will help students use evidence to discover the Law of Conservation of Matter.

KSTF currently supports 100 Teaching Fellows in 25 states who, as a group, will impact nearly 10,000 students in the 2008-2009 academic year alone. Explicitly designed to meet the financial and professional needs of new science and mathematics teachers, the KSTF Teaching Fellowship provides its award-winning teachers with the mentoring, the professional development and the sense of community that they need to improve their teaching strategies and become leaders in education.

About KSTF

The Knowles Science Teaching Foundation (KSTF) was established by Janet H. and C. Harry Knowles in 1999 to strengthen the quality of science and mathematics teaching in United States high schools. The Foundation's signature program, the KSTF Teaching Fellowships, awards exceptional young men and women with a five-year fellowship valued at up to \$150,000 as they embark on careers teaching high school science and mathematics. KSTF's other programs includes Research Fellowships for doctoral level researchers and a biennial Knowles Conference series. For more information visit www.kstf.org