

# OUTSTANDING EDUCATORS *Amiee Modic*

Katy High School chemistry teacher goes beyond the classroom to inspire students and spark an interest in science

*Written by Liz Rector*

*Sitting in class as a high school student,*

being inspired by math teacher Carol Sidoran and chemistry teacher Wanda Dann, Amiee Modic didn't yet realize that she would one day become an inspirational teacher herself. Now a chemistry teacher at Katy High, Modic believes in lifelong learning and challenges her students to raise the bar.



### Creating Light Bulb Moments

Perhaps what makes Modic so successful at what she does is her desire to go above and beyond her job requirements; she has a natural drive to share information with others and a genuine love of science. "I love seeing kids having their 'light bulb' moments and listening to them share their thoughts, ideas, and experiences," Modic says.

Modic is involved in many clubs and projects and takes advantage of opportunities to teach others and nurture their skills. Modic is the sponsor for the KHS Science Olympiad team and spent last summer working with the US National Chemistry Olympiad team. "Science Olympiad is a great opportunity for kids to learn about and explore areas of science that go beyond the standard classroom curriculum," Modic says.

The Chemistry Olympiad is another level of international competition currently involving 72 countries competing in both theoretical and laboratory challenges. The top 20 chemistry students in the US compete for the 4 positions on the travel team. "I also had 2 students qualify for the National test for Chemistry Olympiad and one of those students earned a place at the training camp with the other 19 top students in the country," Modic proudly adds.

### Ongoing Training and Lifelong Learning

As a constant learner, Modic says it's important to obtain ongoing training specific to her subject. "I have gotten wonderful ideas through state science teacher conventions, biennial conferences with the Associated Chemistry Teachers of Texas (ACT2) and at other national and international workshops." When asked about her future goals, Modic said "I would like to continue to improve at my craft and my knowledge in the chemistry area."

Modic believes it's also important to maintain good working relationships with colleagues and other educators. "I enjoy working with other chemistry teachers to share ideas and talk about strategies," says Modic. "I've worked with some of my colleagues for over 20 years and they have a wonderful spirit and sense of humor," Modic shares. "I most enjoy teaching in Katy ISD because of my colleagues."

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### Not So Weird Science

"My favorite part about chemistry is labs, but I also love teaching about areas of chemistry where patterns and interesting number progressions come to light." Although she is there to teach and inspire, Modic admits she is frequently encouraged by

her students as well. "The students inspire me to go above and beyond when they get excited about something," says Modic. And once the day is over, extracurricular activities like the Science Olympiad keep the excitement alive. "I have really enjoyed getting to know the kids and seeing them get so excited when they do well in a competition," Modic says.

### A Lasting Impression

Making sure students have the education they need to be successful in college is important to Modic. "I am proud that my students feel prepared when they leave high school," Modic says. "I've gotten several messages from students and parents letting me know that they really felt equipped for college. That makes me feel like my efforts have been worthwhile." **KM**



*LIZ RECTOR enjoys being the Editorial Coordinator for Katy Magazine. Liz grew up in the Katy ISD school system and has lived in Katy for over a decade.*