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Mar 14 **Palm Beach Maritime Academy's Steve Allen Heads for Open Sea**

Posted by: Deborah Stewart - March 14th, 2011

When Steve Allen returns from his great adventure with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Teacher at Sea Program he'll be bringing excitement along with new strategies, insights, and lessons for his 7th and 8th grade social studies students at Palm Beach Maritime Academy. Out of 250 applicants from across the country, Mr. Allen was one of only thirty teachers selected to sail with the prestigious program. According to its website, since its inception in 1990, the Teacher at Sea program has enabled more than 500 teachers to gain first-hand experience of science and life at sea. By participating in this program, it becomes possible for teachers to enrich their classroom curricula with a depth of understanding made possible by living and working side-by-side, day and night, with those who contribute to the world's body of oceanic and atmospheric scientific knowledge.

Participants are assigned a cruise aboard one of NOAA's 18 ships (or a chartered partner ship). NOAA conducts three main types of cruises. Fisheries research ships perform biological and physical science studies in support of fisheries research. Oceanographic and coastal research ships perform physical science studies in support of scientific studies to increase our understanding of the world's oceans and climate. Hydrographic survey ships scan the coastal sea floor with side-scan sonar and sophisticated bottom sounding systems to locate submerged obstructions and navigational hazards for the creation or update of the nation's nautical charts.

Academy principal Marie Turchiaro said Mr. Allen is a perfect candidate for this research. "He's been selected as a finalist in the 2010 Loggerhead Marinelifelife Center's "Go Blue Awards for Marine Conservation and named Blue Friend of Year for his many contributions and his work with students," she said. "I can't imagine a better candidate to go learn from and enjoy this experience because he'll come right back here to share the fruits of his efforts with students and other teachers," she stated. Mr. Allen has taught seventh and eighth grade Social Studies at Palm Beach Maritime Academy for 8 years. He holds a masters degree in History from Florida Atlantic University and has Interdisciplinary certification in Environmental Studies. The environmentally conscious teacher organizes the school's annual participation in the Coastal Cleanup and the City Of Lake Worth's Street Painting Festival. He has served as a member of Lake Worth's volunteer citizen Tree Board, enjoys kayaking, and is a certified diver.

NOAA's call for applications for 2012 will begin October 1, 2011. For more information about the Teacher at Sea Program, visit <http://teacheratsea.noaa.gov/apply/index.html>. For more information about Mr. Allen, contact Ms. Turchiaro at 561-547-3775 or email turchpbma@palmbeach.k12.fl.us.

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