

The Cleveland Section of the American Chemical Society congratulates Mrs. Lori Koss as the recipient of the 2009 Irene Heller Award. The Heller Award is given every year to an outstanding high school chemistry teacher, and is named in honor of the late Irene C. Heller, herself an outstanding chemistry high school teacher. The award consists of a certificate and \$1000, along with recognition at the annual Education Night section meeting of the Cleveland ACS.

Mrs. Koss has been teaching chemistry and biology at Magnificat High School in Rocky River, Ohio, since 2001. Her nominators were exceptionally strong in their support of Lori: "It isn't often that a new teacher comes in for an interview and you know after the first minutes of the interview that she is the perfect person for the position," gushed fellow teacher Betty Dabrowski, herself a Heller Award recipient. Magnificat principal Sr. Mary Pat Cook agrees: "Our students are blessed to have her as a teacher and mentor."

In addition to outstanding service in the classroom, Mrs. Koss serves as a coach for the Magnificat Science Olympiad team, qualifying for the statewide tournament four times in a row under her supervision. She also participates in "student immersion" experiences during the summer, taking small groups of students to other areas of the country and world for the past two summers. One of her more innovative classroom activities was to make "Gas Law Chemist Trading Cards" for her students, an idea that has been adopted and expanded by fellow science teachers at Magnificat HS.

Congratulations to Lori for receiving this prestigious award!