



from

## Anne Arundel County Public Schools

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **GLEN BURNIE HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER AMONG FIRST TO ACHIEVE GENA CERTIFICATION FOR GENETICS EDUCATION**

Glen Burnie High School science teacher Pam Engel has become one of the first teachers in the country to successfully complete the Geneticist-Educator Network of Alliances (GENA) Certification. The certification process requires geneticist-teacher teams to develop curricula using novel techniques and to assess student understanding. Engel helped design materials that would better prepare students to create, analyze, and form conclusions from family pedigrees.

“This is very exciting for me and I have great hopes that it will help my students as they learn about genetics,” Engel said. “By first engaging the students with their own family pedigree, they can better understand how their traits were inherited.”

As a part of her preparation, Engel examined state and national science standards and identified topics most difficult for students to comprehend. These materials will help those students more easily grasp the complex subject of genetics.

“Her work will be disseminated nationally through various channels as it provides a unique and valuable resource for students to better understand the nature of genetics,” said Dr. Michael Dougherty, director of education for the American Society of Human Genetics.

Engel has taught at Glen Burnie High School for the past 11 years.

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