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Carvalho Knighton Honored by Valdosta State University

In the 15 years since Kathy Carvalho-Knighton received her bachelor’s degree from Georgia’s Valdosta State University, she has strived to positively influence her students and create opportunities for their professional advancement in science. Her efforts and achievements have earned her the inaugural Outstanding Alumna Award from the College of Arts and Sciences at VSU.

Carvalho Knighton was one of the first chemistry faculty members at USFSP when she was hired in 2001 after she earned her PhD in chemistry from USF in 2000. Her desire to inspire students and help them achieve their professional and academic goals led her to start the grant-funded STREAMS program, which stands for Supporting Talented and Remarkable Environmental And Marine Science Students Scholarship. STREAMS offers professional, academic and peer mentoring along with a scholarship to the program’s students.

“I want to be an inspiration to my students and others who don’t know what their path is yet,” Carvalho Knighton said. “I want to show them that they can enjoy every academic experience.”

Her enjoyment of the small school atmosphere during her undergraduate years at VSU inspired her to teach at USFSP, where the comparable campus size helped her feel at home.

She will travel with her family to Valdosta to receive the award on Oct. 13. Her last visit to her alma mater was in 2004 when she was invited to give a presentation titled, “Phytoremediation of Heavy Metals.” Carvalho Knighton’s research interests include water quality, phytoremediation of heavy metals by aquatic species, remediation of organic and chlorinated compounds and chemical education.

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