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news

## Amanda Terry hired as Lab Technician

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Amanda Terry was hired to fill the newly created position of Science Lab Technician for the 2018-19 school year. Terry will assist both MVHS and LAHS science departments with lab set-up, maintenance of equipment, and chemical inventory, storage, and waste.

Terry has a bachelor's degree in Environmental Science from the University of North Carolina and 13 years of relevant laboratory experience.

Terry said she felt incredibly welcomed by the science department and looks forward to support student learning, especially since she has long held a passion for education.

"I've been in the corporate world, I've done government work, and this is academia," Terry said. "I feel like I'll be giving back a little more to the community instead of trying to do things for the dollar."

The MVLA Foundation funded the new position with a special grant.

According to the MVLA Foundation Co-Executive Director Laura Roberts, science departments needed the support of a lab

technician as setting up labs proved very time consuming for teachers.

"We would like the teachers to be able to focus on teaching and not in maintaining the labs," Roberts said.

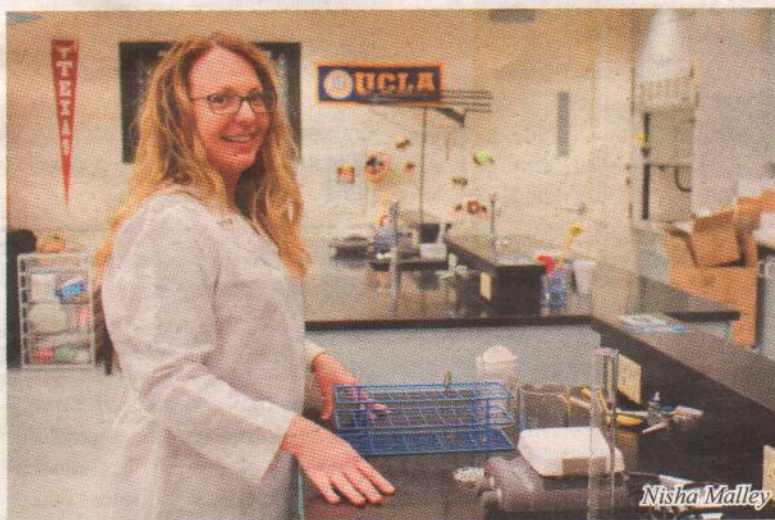
Science department coordinator and physics teacher Gina Dunsmore expressed her excitement for the new position. Her longest lab, which applies students' understanding of Newton's Second Law, requires two hours to assemble and involves the use of air tracks, pulleys, photogates, carts, weights, strings, LabQuests, and Logger Pro software.

According to Dunsmore, science teachers often stray from having Student Teacher Assistants help with lab set up, as some can involve hazardous materials.

"We can't have Student TAs helping with dangerous chemicals, and some of our physics equipment deals with a lot of electricity and water," Dunsmore said.

With assistance from Terry, Dunsmore may no longer have to use her preparation periods and time after school for longer lab set-ups.

"I can focus on lesson planning," Dunsmore said. "I can focus on grading. I can focus on helping students understand the concepts over then just setting up and taking down equipment."



**TERRY:** works with MVHS and LAHS science departments to maintain equipment.