**GA employee: Heather Wilkens**

**Teacher: Sara Dozier**

**School: San Diego High School of Science and Technology**

**Dates: 12/15/11 and 5/23/12**

I used the GASSSS funds to purchase a radiation shielding kit for my friend Sara who teaches biology and chemistry in downtown San Diego. She and I had been talking for years about me visiting her class, so the GASSSS program gave me the perfect opportunity! I visited Sara's classroom twice since she had different groups of kids throughout the school year. I gave a short (15 min) talk about my career including why I became a scientist, the education process, and my current responsibilities, and then took questions. The kids had a LOT of questions, mostly about where I came from originally and what opportunities and support I had to make it through college. Then we had about 15 minutes to do the activity. I was able to get a Geiger counter from a company who rents lab space at GA and some vintage Fiestaware, so we had a great way to demonstrate how the various materials shielded the radiation. Sara is a terrific teacher who prepped the kids ahead of time, so we had a great discussion about what careers require employees to think about radiation shielding. She wanted to relate it to the health industry, but we got a lot of other interesting answers (e.g., TSA workers).