

Earth Project comes to Halls Middle

By Ruth White

Halls Middle School eighth grade science students will get the opportunity to work hand-in-hand with representatives from the University of Tennessee this school year.

The program, GK-12 Earth Project, funded by the National Science Foundation, will allow the students to work with college professors and teacher partners to perform research in the classroom and in the field.

"The GK-12 Earth Project will help bring excitement of research and discovery into middle school classrooms," said project lead Dr. Sally Horn.

"This is a way to enhance science education in East Tennessee."

The project will also help provide a link between the students, their parents and the university. "The presence of UT will help the kids think toward their futures."

Horn is the principal investigator on the project and wrote the grant that helped receive \$1.9 million from the National



Halls Middle School student Hana Shea Lewis and her mom, Terri, talk with Dr. Colin Sumrall and Dr. Sally Horn from UT about the GK-12 Earth Project funded by the National Science Foundation. Photo by Ruth White

Science Foundation. Halls Middle and Holston Middle schools are the only two schools in Knox

County selected to participate in the program. Five middle schools from surrounding coun-

ties were also selected for the project.