NSTA Distinguished Teaching Award

Program Summary

The National Science Teachers Association annually awards one or more Distinguished Teaching Awards in the field of K–16 science education. The awards are designed to recognize current NSTA members who are classroom teachers at the elementary, middle school, high school, and undergraduate levels and who have made extraordinary contributions to the field of science teaching. The number of awards given each year is at the Awards and Recognitions Committee's discretion.

Award

Each award consists of three nights' hotel accommodations and expenses (up to $500) to attend the NSTA National Conference on Science Education. Awardees will be honored at the Awards Banquet during the NSTA conference.

Eligibility

This award is open to current NSTA members only, who have at least ten years of teaching experience.

Criteria for Judging

Excellence in teaching that reflects the NGSS is the main criterion for selection of recipients.
Among the criteria to be considered by the committee are

★ effective planning skills;
★ lesson presentation skills;
★ ability to motivate and challenge students;
★ professional contribution in science and science education (e.g., publications, presentations); and
★ participation in professional growth activities, leadership roles, and involvement at professional meetings.

Award Submission Requirements

It is the nominator's responsibility to assemble an entry packet that must include

★ an abstract of no more than character equivalent of 250 words describing the nominee's distinguished teaching;
★ a narrative describing the nominee's extraordinary science teaching.
The following questions must be answered with specific examples:
How does the teacher:

- Demonstrate effective planning skills: long-range goals, daily lesson plans, and objectives at the correct level of difficulty?
- Teach to the objective; communicate the lesson's purpose, provides appropriate instructional input, and uses a range of teaching strategies?
- Motivate students; relates instruction to student interests and knowledge and demonstrates the appropriate level of concern?
- Demonstrate proficiency in science education?
- Particpate inprofessional growth activities?
- Serve as a resource teacher to other teachers?
- Participate in professional associations, and demonstrates leadership in improving education?
- Practices and demonstrates acceptable safety procedures.

- ★ Three letters of support from individuals and groups who are familiar with the applicant's work. Letters should not exceed three pages each and must accompany packet. Letters sent separately will not be considered. When possible, use letterhead. Make sure letters are signed and dated accordingly. Letters should be written for and refer to applicant's strengths, accomplishments, and the highlights of his or her teaching or administration methods and experiences that directly connect to the application;
- ★ a curriculum vita, not exceeding word equivalent of five pages, that includes a brief description of the nominee's teaching experience and previous awards and recognition;
- ★ include nominee's lesson plans, not exceeding word equivalent of three pages, assessment tools, with evidence of success.

Upon receipt, all applications become the property of NSTA. Applications will not be returned. Late or faxed applications will not be accepted. Completed applications must be received by December 15, 2016. Use the on-line submission form at *www.nsta.org/awards* to complete your application. All attachments shall be in pdf format.
Questions send e-mail to *awards@nsta.org*.