



NSTA DISTINGUISHED TEACHING AWARD

PROGRAM SUMMARY

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

AWARD

Each award consists of two nights' hotel accommodations and \$500 towards expenses to attend the annual NSTA National Conference on Science Education.

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 National Science Education Standards 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)
- ★ 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—a short overview of your more detailed narrative. Not to exceed 250 words.
- ★ A narrative describing the nominee's extraordinary science teaching. The narrative must be written and signed by a principal or supervisor who has observed the nominee's classroom 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?
 - Participate in professional 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 resume/vita to include following sections.

- **Section 1:** Degrees Received (e.g., PhD, New York University, New York City, NY 2005)
- **Section 2:** Previous Employment (e.g., lab assistant, previous positions related to science education, etc.)
- **Section 3:** NSTA Activities (List NSTA involvement such as committees and NSTA publications, Learning Center involvement, both past and present. Where applicable, list year(s))
- **Section 4:** State Chapter, Associated Groups, Local School/District Activities List involvement in past and present activities, where applicable list year
- **Section 5:** Additional Activities and Honors List chronology of professional and teaching experience (include city, state, and year of each experience) and state and local science involvement (past and present). List other professional activities (include other associations you belong to, professional development activities, and other activities) and special honors and awards (list name of honor/award, honor/award sponsor, and year received)

★ Include nominee's lesson plans, not exceeding three pages, assessment tools, with evidence of success.

★ A Photo Headshot (to be used in promotions if you are chosen as the awardee.)

Checklist Prior to Uploading Application

Occasionally we receive entries that are incomplete or in which the applicant did not follow the specified guidelines. Entries that do not follow the stated rules for submission are disqualified, regardless of the merit or innovation of the entry. Make sure you and a colleague review the checklist below before sending in your application so you can ensure that your efforts will not be disqualified. Ensure that your application communicates the information you intend. Don't forget to check for correct spelling.

You will be asked to submit the following components when applying:

- NSTA Member #
- Principal/Supervisor's Name, email and phone #
- Abstract
- Lesson plan and assessment tools, three-page maximum
- Narrative
- Letters of support
- Curriculum vita/resume

Please be advised that you may apply for more than one award; however, you are eligible to win only one NSTA award per year. Each application must be based on a unique program and process. Submission of the same idea and materials to different NSTA award programs will result in the disqualification of all applications. If your idea or project has received an NSTA award in the past, that idea or project is not eligible to receive an additional award.

If you are selected to receive an award, NSTA must request and receive your social security number to issue a 1099 form to you. If your program is currently grant funded, confirm that you, as an individual, are eligible to receive a cash award. If you have received an award for this project from another provider, you must notify NSTA.

Please note that, for security purposes, this online application form has a 2-hour time limit. If you are inactive for the maximum time, you will be automatically logged out of the system. You may log back in with your username (email address) and password. At any time during the application process, you may click the Save & Logout button, located at the top of every screen. This will save the information you have entered thus far and allow you to log back in to complete your form at a later date.

Upon receipt, all submissions 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 21, 2022. Applications may only be submitted via the online submission form found at <https://www.nsta.org/awards>. Questions? Please feel free to e-mail awards@nsta.org.