

# ROBERT E. YAGER EXEMPLARY TEACHING AWARD

## PROGRAM SUMMARY

The Robert E. Yager Exemplary Teaching Award will recognize exemplary innovation in the field of science education. This award acknowledges teachers who share Robert Yager's passion for education and continued professional development. This award also honors Robert Yager's effort to make excellent science education accessible to students of the 21st century and beyond. Awardees will have exhibited exemplary innovation in the field of science education, and embody the mission statement of NSTA.

## AWARD

Six awardees will be selected annually. The individual awardees will receive a \$1,000 award, up to \$1,000 for travel expenses to attend the NSTA National Congress on Science Education, and a plaque. They will be asked to present at the NSTA National Conference on Science Education, with their presentation videotaped for future use. The awardees will be invited to attend and present at their grade band share a thon at the National Conference, attend the district director meet and greet, attend and participate in their NSTA District Director Leadership retreat.

## ELIGIBILITY

Individuals who apply for this award must be a current K-12 classroom science educator in one of NSTA's districts. In 2020–21, Districts II, IV, VIII, X, XIV, XVI are eligible. In 2021–22, Districts III, V, IX, XI, XV, XVII are eligible.

In 2022–23, Districts I, VI, VII, XII, XIII, and XVIII are eligible.

NSTA Districts:

I – CT, MA, RI; II – ME, NH, VT; III – DE, DC, MD; IV – NJ, NY, PA; V – AL, GA, FL, PR, VI; VI – NC, SC, TN;  
VII – AR, LA, MS; VIII – KY, VA, WV; IX – MN, ND, SD; X – IN, MI, OH; XI – KS, MO, NE; XII – IL, IA, WI;  
XIII – NM, OK, TX; XIV – AZ, CO, UT; XV – ID, MT, WY; XVI – CA, HI, NV, AS, GU, TPI; XVII – AK, OR, WA;  
XVIII – Canada

## CRITERIA FOR JUDGING

The target audience for the Robert E. Yager Award will be grades K-12 science teachers working in one of NSTA's districts; who exemplify exemplary innovation in the field of science education. Among the criteria to be considered by the committee are:

- ★ exhibited excellence and innovation in the field of science education;
- ★ effective planning and presentation skills;
- ★ ability to motivate and challenge students;
- ★ proficiency in science and science education (e.g., publications, presentations);
- ★ participation in professional growth activities, leadership roles, and involvement at professional meetings; and
- ★ Support NGSS and/or national science education standards.

## AWARD SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Applications should reflect national science education standards and must include the following information:

- ★ Character equivalent of 1000 word summary describing how the nominee implements the teaching of science education in the classroom;
- ★ Character equivalent of 1000 word abstract highlighting the nominee's methodology and practice of teaching science in the classroom and showing that it exhibits creative, innovative, and sustainable teaching methods that enhance not only the immediate learning process for the student, but also provides the student with a framework of inquiry and practice for all of his or her interactions with the sciences;
- ★ a narrative, not to exceed the character equivalent of five pages, describing the outstanding nature of the nominee's contributions and including specific examples of the nominee's outstanding contributions;
- ★ a vitae (up to three pages), describing science teaching experience, professional development, professional activities, and awards;
- ★ Support NGSS and/or national science education standards
- ★ three letters of support from individuals and groups who are familiar with the applicant's work. Letters should not exceed two 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 the nominee's strengths and accomplishments, and highlights of his or her teaching methods and experiences that directly connect to the application; and

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 10, 2020. Use the on-line submission form at [www.nsta.org/awards](http://www.nsta.org/awards) to complete your application. Questions send e-mail to [awards@nsta.org](mailto:awards@nsta.org).