

2010 NSTA Year-In-Review

In 2010, NSTA accomplished many goals in pursuit of its mission to promote excellence and innovation in science teaching and learning for all. Most notable were our efforts to support high-quality science teaching by delivering a steady stream of outstanding programs, opportunities, and resources; advocate for science education by growing our partnerships and collaborations; promote the active participation of teachers through digital and social media opportunities; and promote the application of research in science teaching and learning. While we would like to include every achievement that contributed to our success in 2010, here are just a few highlights.

Promoted the active participation of all teachers of science in improving science education

- **Significantly increased interaction with and among science educators through social media environments, such as Facebook, NSTA blogs, Listservs, Twitter, and LinkedIn.**
- **Engaged 73,000 active users of the NSTA Learning Center, who regularly complete and document their professional development growth.** With support from corporate, government, and nonprofit partners, NSTA ramped up the number of resources it offers, and now provides nearly 6,000 Science Objects, SciGuides, SciPacks, Web Seminars, SciLinks, symposia, book chapters, journal articles, podcasts, and more.
- **Increased the distribution of *NSTA Express* to 400,000, delivering the latest science education news and information to science educators and leaders every week.**
- **Teamed up with the National Science Foundation (NSF) and NBC Learn to launch “Chemistry Now,” a weekly online video series that uncovers and explains the science of common, physical objects in our world.** NSTA is creating lesson plans to support the videos in celebration of the International Year of Chemistry.
- **Hosted area conferences in Kansas City, Baltimore, and Nashville, and a national conference in Philadelphia.** These popular events brought together more than 16,000 science education leaders and experts with educators interested in personal and professional growth.

Advocated for the central role of science education to benefit students and society

- **Collaborated with the National Research Council (NRC), Achieve, Inc., and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) to usher in the next generation of science standards.** In 2010, NSTA engaged the science education community to provide feedback on a draft framework that will guide new science education standards. We eagerly await the final framework and will work to involve science educators as the science education standards are developed.
- **Participated in the inaugural USA Science and Engineering Festival—with hundreds of other organizations from around the country eager to inspire our nation’s youth in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM).**
- **Supported the expansion of the STEM Education Coalition.** NSTA continues to chair the coalition, which is working to educate federal policymakers and opinion leaders on the critical role of STEM education, advocate for appropriations for innovative and effective federal STEM education programs, and build strong relationships with Congressional and Administration policymakers. The coalition was instrumental in helping to pass the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010.
- **Engaged nearly 2,000 elementary teachers, parents, and families through a series of Science Matters community events.** These hands-on, high-energy events were held in Kansas City, Baltimore, and Nashville and generated awareness about the importance of science learning during the elementary school years.

Supported high-quality science teaching to improve student learning for the 21st-century

- **Expanded award programs for science educators.** NSTA launched the NSTA Shell Science Lab Challenge, offering grand-prize winners a school science lab makeover valued at \$20,000; and the Mars Education Challenge, a program by Explore Mars, Inc., in partnership with NSTA and the Planetary Society. These new programs complement NSTA's existing awards programs that are graciously supported by many corporate and non-profit partners.
- **Completed the fourth year of the New Science Teachers Academy.** Cofounded by NSTA and the Amgen Foundation, and supported by Astellas Pharma US, Inc.; Bayer Corporation; ServiceMaster; and an endowment from Maitland P. Simmons, the program helps reduce the high attrition rate in the science teaching profession by providing professional development and mentoring support to early-career science teachers. To date, nearly 620 science teachers from around the country have participated as Academy fellows.
- **Steadily increased the production and sales of NSTA's world-class publications.** In FY2010, NSTA Press® produced 20 new publications for science educators, such as *Predict, Observe, Explain: Activities Enhancing Scientific Understanding*. The books add to an already impressive collection of publications that now support robust sales of over \$3 million. NSTA Press publications again received a host of awards and recognition from top book publishing organizations.

- **Passed the \$18 million mark in gifts and pledges to the \$23 million John Glenn Center for Science Education campaign.** NSTA will use the Glenn Center as a launching pad to support forward-thinking programs and initiatives that promote leadership, learning, and advocacy in science education.
- **Hosted 600 teachers from across the country at three Mickelson ExxonMobil Teachers Academies that took place in Houston, New Orleans and Jersey City.** This innovative professional development program entails a week-long immersion in a host of science-and math-related activities for teachers in grades 3–5.

Influenced research in science education and promoted its wide application to improve science teaching and student learning

- **Collaborated with the National Association for Research in Science Teaching (NARST) to hold a Research Dissemination Conference (RDC) for educators.** These popular sessions focused on elementary level science education and showcased current research and best practices.
- **Worked to build a bridge between research and practice for science teachers.** In its member journals, NSTA increased the number of articles and devoted entire issues to educational research that can inform science teaching. We also collaborated with NARST to support a virtual issue of its member journal, featuring a collection of themed articles written by researchers for classroom teachers.