

## DCAT “MAKING A DIFFERENCE” AWARD

### PROGRAM SUMMARY

A partnership of The Drug, Chemical and Associated Technologies Association (DCAT) and the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA), this award recognizes and honors excellence in a science program that impacts the lives of grades 6–12 students. Entries must show effective teaching strategies combined with a science program that have influenced students to initiate or extend their interests in the exploration and investigation of science and its application to global problems. Entries must demonstrate that the science program can be replicated and used as a model in other middle or high schools.

The award consists of a \$2,500 prize awarded to the school along with coach airfare and two nights' hotel accommodations for the lead science teacher and principal to attend the NSTA National Conference on Science Education. Awardees will be honored at the Teacher Awards Banquet during the conference. Information on the winning school will be disseminated through local and national press releases. DCAT and NSTA will also include this information in their appropriate publications.

### ELIGIBILITY

The science program is for grades 6–12. The program must be in effect at the time of application and have been operational for at least one year. The award is open to an accredited U.S. or Canadian public, private, or Department of Defense Dependent School.

### AWARD SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Applications should reflect National Science Education Standards and must include the following information in the order presented:

- ★ Label each section; number each page.
- ★ Completed and signed application form. A middle- or high school-level teacher or school principal may nominate an outstanding science program. Nominator will provide a description of the innovative science program.
- ★ Description of Science Program. (No more than three single-sided, double-spaced pages.) Describe and provide examples of how the science program addresses each of the following criteria:
  - Emphasizes science processes and inquiry as described in the National Science Education Standards;
  - Encourages student inquiry and input;
  - Recognizes that students at various levels of cognitive development need a range of topics, activities, and strategies;
  - Shows recognition of cognitive development, range of topics, activities, and strategies appropriate for middle level students;
  - Presents positive role models—female/male, ethnic/racial—engaged in scientific inquiry;
  - Focuses on students' success in learning and awakening a sense of interest in science; and
  - Makes optimal use of community resources, including field trips, independent study, and interaction with role models.
- ★ Evidence of Success. Describe evaluation efforts that demonstrate growth in student achievement and enthusiasm and professional growth of staff (no more than one single-sided, single-spaced page).
- ★ Description of Future Plans for Expansion and Enhancement of the Science Program. Include budget summary stating how the \$2,500 award would be used for this expansion and enhancement (no more than two single-sided pages, double spaced).
- ★ Three letters of support from individuals and groups who are familiar with the work of the applicant. 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.
- ★ Additional Supporting Material. May be attached in the form of photographs or other supporting documentation illustrating the science program in action.
- ★ Completed NSTA Awards and Recognitions Committee Suggestions and Checklist (if not submitted electronically).

Upon receipt, applications become the property of NSTA. Applications will not be returned to applicants. Late or faxed applications will not be accepted. All material must be in one envelope. Completed applications must be received by November 30.

## DCAT "MAKING A DIFFERENCE" AWARD

Name of Program \_\_\_\_\_ NSTA Member # \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Level \_\_\_\_\_

Number of years program has been in existence \_\_\_\_\_ Is this program funded by a grant or other source? \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Lead Science Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

School Name \_\_\_\_\_

School Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ FAX (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Lead teacher's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

School Population \_\_\_\_\_ School Type  Public  Private  DoD  Urban  Rural  Suburban

Have you ever received an NSTA award? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, list year and award received \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Principal \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that the program described in this application has existed for one year or more and will continue. I fully support the submission of this application.

Principal Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Send your original application and supporting materials to

DCAT "Making a Difference" Award

NSTA

1840 Wilson Boulevard

Arlington, VA 22201-3000

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Questions? Please visit our website at [www.nsta.org/dcat](http://www.nsta.org/dcat) or e-mail [awards@nsta.org](mailto:awards@nsta.org).

## DCAT “MAKING A DIFFERENCE” AWARD CHECKLIST

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. All written components should be typed and double spaced, on standard 8-1/2" x 11" white paper, with 1" margins. The font is a standard 12-point size or larger. If you have questions regarding your application, please e-mail [awards@nsta.org](mailto:awards@nsta.org).

### **Complete the list, sign it, and attach it to your application. Each entry includes**

- A completed DCAT “Making a Difference” application form signed by you and your principal;
- Description of science program, maximum of three pages;
- Evidence of success;
- Description of future plans that include how the \$2,500 award would be used for this expansion and enhancement;
- Three letters of support;
- Application is bound together with a heavy-duty staple or binder clip (no presentation binders); and
- Label each section; number each page.

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. Your application will not be returned and becomes the property of NSTA. If you have received an award for this project from another provider, you must notify NSTA.

If your application is selected to receive an award, NSTA reserves the right to reproduce information/photos/other content in promotional materials and on the NSTA website. By submitting materials that contain images of students and other individuals, you assume complete responsibility for obtaining appropriate release consent forms and permission to transfer these materials to NSTA.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**NSTA AWARDS – 2011/12**  
**DCAT “Making a Difference” Award**  
**Official Scoring Guide**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 School: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State: \_\_\_\_\_

Eligibility: \_\_\_\_\_ School (6-12)

Criteria							Score
Completed application with signature							YES or NO
Criteria	Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	Superior	Weight	Score
Description of science program: Emphasizes science processes and inquiry as described in the NSE Standards	1	2	3	4	5	X 4	
Encourages student inquiry and input	1	2	3	4	5	X 2	
Recognizes students at various levels of cognitive development	1	1	3	4	5	X 1	
Presents positive role models	1	2	3	4	5	X 1	
Focuses on students success						X 1	
Makes optimal use of community resources						X 1	
3 letters of support	1	2	3	4	5	X 3	
Evidence of success	1	2	3	4	5	X 1	
Description of future plans	1	2	3	4	5	X 1	
Up to 5 pages of supporting material	1	2	3	4	5	X 1	
Completed checklist (if submitted through the mail)	1	2	3	4	5	X 1	
<b>Total</b>							

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Judge: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_