

## 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 five 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); 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 250 words describing the nominee's distinguished teaching;
- ★ 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.

# NSTA Awards

- ★ 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 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 three pages, assessment tools, with evidence of success;
- ★ a completed NSTA Awards and Recognitions Committee Suggestions and Checklist; and
- ★ label each section and number each page.

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.

## NSTA DISTINGUISHED TEACHING AWARD

Award Level:  elementary (preK-5)  Middle Level (6-8)  High School (9-12)  College

Name \_\_\_\_\_ NSTA Membership # \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Years taught science \_\_\_\_\_

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

Nominator's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Nominator's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Send your original application and supporting materials to

Distinguished Teaching Award

NSTA

1840 Wilson Boulevard

Arlington, VA 22201-3000

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

## NSTA DISTINGUISHED TEACHING 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. Make sure your application is bound together with a heavy-duty staple or binder clip (no presentation binders). 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 application form signed by nominee and the nominator;
- abstract;
- narrative;
- lesson plan and assessment tools, three pages maximum;
- letters of support;
- curriculum vita; and
- label each section and 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

## Distinguished Teaching Award

### Official Scoring Guide

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State: \_\_\_\_\_

Criteria	Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	Superior	Weight	Score
Effective planning skills	1	2	3	4	5	X 2	
Lesson presentation skills	1	2	3	4	5	X 2	
Ability to motivate & challenge students	1	2	3	4	5	X 2	
Proficiency in science and science education (e.g., publications, presentations)	1	2	3	4	5	X 2	
Safety procedures	1	2	3	4	5	X 2	
Participation in professional growth activities leadership roles and involvement at professional meetings	1	2	3	4	5	X 2	
<b>ENTRY PACKET</b>							
250 word abstract of teaching narrative (description of talent, signed by principal, more than 50% time as teacher, note subject/grade level);	1	2	3	4	5	X 1	
3 letters of support (limit 3 pages for each letter)	1	2	3	4	5	X 3	
vitae (limit 5 pages)	1	2	3	4	5	X 1	
lesson plan, and assessment tools, (limit 3 pages, single sided)	1	2	3	4	5	X 1	

<b>Grand Total</b>	
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**Comments:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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 \_\_\_\_\_

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