

# NSTA Competitions and Awards

2012

NSTA's Teacher Awards Program honors inspiring and deserving teachers, providing more than \$200,000 in awards annually for outstanding achievements in science education. Many committed companies and organizations partner with NSTA and provide financial support for these awards.

In addition to our Teacher Awards Program, NSTA hosts and administers large-scale, nationally-known competitions and grant programs for science educators and students.

## NSTA Competitions



**Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision** is a science competition that encourages K-12 students of all interest, skill, and ability levels to create and explore a vision of a future technology by combining their imaginations with the tools of science. Teams of

two to four students research scientific principles and current technologies as the basis for designing innovative technologies that could exist in 20 years. The competition awards up to \$240,000 in savings bonds annually. Since 1992, more than 280,000 students from across the U.S. and Canada have competed in ExploraVision.



**Siemens We Can Change the World Challenge** is a national sustainability competition that encourages K-12 students to team up with their classmates to develop actionable local solutions for a "greener world." The Siemens Foundation,

NSTA, Discovery Education, and the College Board partner on this initiative to educate, empower, and engage students and teachers nationwide to become "Agents of Change" in improving their communities. Prizes include more than \$300,000 in trips, grants, scholarships, and teacher awards.



**The DuPont Challenge® Science Essay Competition** is a student competition that invites seventh through 12th grade students to write a 700- to 1,000-word essay about a scientific discovery, theory, event, or technological application that has captured their interest. Developed in collaboration with the Walt Disney World Resort, NASA, A+ Media, NBC Learn, Britannica Digital Library, and NSTA, the

competition offers young students the opportunity to explore science, develop new skills, and gain confidence in communicating scientific ideas. Participants compete for savings bonds, trips, and educator grants. Over the past 25 years, more than 150,000 students have participated in the program.

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"... to promote excellence and innovation in science teaching and learning for all."

[www.nsta.org](http://www.nsta.org)

**NSTA** National  
Science  
Teachers  
Association

## NSTA Competitions and Awards



**Disney's Planet Challenge** is a project-based environmental competition for elementary and middle school (grades 3-8) classrooms, developed in collaboration with NSTA and the WestEd K-12 Alliance. Classrooms are empowered to make a difference in their homes, schools, and communities while students learn about science, conservation, and positive ways to impact the planet. Prizes include a trip to Disneyland or Walt Disney World, school and classroom grants, Disney DVDs, student eco-friendly prize packs, and more. Disney's Planet Challenge also provides matching grants through Donors Choose for classrooms participating in this program.



### Shell Science Lab Challenge



**The Shell Science Lab Challenge**, a program of NSTA, invites middle and high school science teachers in the U.S. and Canada to illustrate replicable approaches to science lab instruction utilizing limited school and laboratory resources. Viable strategies submitted to the Challenge will be published in an online NSTA repository of science lab activities that can be accessed by other teachers looking for new ways to create quality lab experiences using limited resources. Teachers and schools submitting top entries will receive additional laboratory tools, resources, and rich professional development opportunities. Nearly a hundred thousand dollars in prizes is awarded annually, including a \$20,000 lab makeover support package.



**The Mars Education Challenge** encourages science teachers around the U.S. to develop ingenious ways to fit Mars science and exploration into the classroom. The program empowers teachers to create Mars-

related curriculum support materials that can be easily adopted in accordance with standards around the country and can enable educators to teach science in new and interesting ways using Mars as an example. Nearly twenty thousand dollars in cash prizes is awarded annually, including a \$5,000 grand prize and trips to do field research with distinguished planetary scientists.

### CLEAN TECH COMPETITION

PRESENTED BY APPLIED MATERIALS

### The Applied Materials Clean Tech Competition

immerses pre-college youth ages 13-18 in real-world challenges that illustrate the powerful potential of clean technology to address problems that confront humanity in the 21st century. Youth of all skill, ability, and interest levels in select regions across the globe are invited to address common challenges to highlight the roles that science and technology and the strategy of design play in solving problems that transcend national boundaries. Finalist teams compete for \$17,000 in cash awards in each region.



### America's Home Energy

### Education Challenge (AHEEC)

is a new nationwide student competition to help families save money by saving energy at home. AHEEC engages students in elementary and middle schools to make smarter energy choices that reduce U.S. reliance on fossil fuels and put money back in their parents' pockets. This initiative aims to educate America's youth about the benefits of energy efficiency, motivate students to play a more active role in how their families use energy, and help families across the country reduce their energy bills. Participating schools compete for more than \$200,000 in prizes distributed at the regional and national levels of the competition.

## NSTA Teachers Awards Program

Every year, more than 50 extraordinary K-12 teachers, professors, principals, science educators, and students are honored for their outstanding achievements in science education. Below is a list of the 2012 awards available.

- "Angela" Award
- DCAT "Making a Difference" Award
- Delta Education/Frey-Neo/CPO Science Education Awards for Inquiry-based Science Teaching
- Distinguished Informal Science Education Award
- Distinguished Service to Science Education Awards
- Distinguished Teaching Awards
- Faraday Science Communicator Award
- Maitland P. Simmons Memorial Award for New Teachers
- NSTA Fellow Award
- NSTA Legacy Award
- Robert H. Carleton Award
- Ron Mardigian Memorial Biotechnology Explorer Award
- SeaWorld Parks and Entertainment Outstanding Environmental Educator of the Year
- Shell Science Teaching Award
- PASCO STEM Educator Awards
- Sylvia Shugrue Award for Elementary School Teachers
- Vernier Technology Awards
- Wendell G. Mohling Outstanding Aerospace Educator Award