

Date:

Dear:

At the National Science Teaching Association's (NSTA) National Conference on Science Education (NSTA MINN25)—one of the largest conferences focused exclusively on science and STEM teaching for K-20 teachers of science—educators will gather to discover best practices and strategies in science education. I am eager to attend this professional learning event in Minneapolis, scheduled for November 12-15, as this is a fantastic opportunity for me to sharpen my skills, while also establishing connections with peers from around the country.

NSTA MINN25 will give me the chance to attend science-specific professional learning, which is critical to my growth as a science teacher. The conference features hundreds of peer-led sessions and workshops that directly apply to my work. NSTA offers [professional development credit](#) (based on clock hours) and [graduate-level credit](#) through Dominican University of California for this conference. This highly specialized professional learning event will equip me with enhanced skills and knowledge on key areas vital to successful learning in my science/STEM classroom, including ensuring my teaching aligns with state teaching standards and research-based teaching pedagogy.

Strands for the NSTA MINN25 include:

- **Designing and Implementing High-Quality Instructional Materials and Assessments to Support 3D Teaching and Learning** : Sessions in this strand are designed to deepen educators' knowledge base and instructional practice, with a focus on selecting, implementing, or adapting curricula and assessments to support 3D teaching and learning.
- **Outdoor and Place-based Education: Building Connections Beyond the Classroom** : Sessions in this strand showcase how outdoor and place-based learning experiences foster engagement, exemplify 3D learning, and incorporate local contexts and issues into STEM education.
- **Teaching for Sensemaking** : Sessions in this strand focus on instructional strategies to support student sensemaking. Four attributes of sensemaking are phenomena, science and engineering practices, student ideas, and science ideas (grade-appropriate disciplinary core ideas). In this strand, we invited educators to share how they have integrated the pillar(s) of sensemaking into their practice. Particular emphasis will be placed on sessions that provide strategies for lesson design or assessment using at least one of the pillars in combination with student work, student video, or specific examples of the strategy in the classroom and its impacts on student learning.
- **Literacy and Math in the Three Dimensions** : Sessions in this strand focus on either the integration of science and literacy or the integration of science and math to create opportunities for student learning, problem-solving, and impact.
- **Climate Science and Sustainability: Teaching with Relevance and Impact** : Sessions in this strand focus on climate science, environmental or natural stewardship, and sustainability.
- **STEM Haven** : Sessions in this strand will focus on transdisciplinary learning (engaging students where disciplines converge to solve real-world problems). Sessions will highlight tools, strategies, and ideas where students apply knowledge and skills from multiple disciplines (science, technology, engineering, math, humanities, arts, computer science) to create and innovate solutions.

I will also have the chance to explore the Expo Hall to engage in one-on-one conversations with industry experts, participate in live product demos, and explore new teaching and learning tools and resources that will help sharpen my practice and boost student performance. Plus, I will be able to bring home conference materials, allowing me to share what I have learned with others in the department.

The conference also provides opportunities for me to network with education industry leaders, and solution providers. Finally, my conference registration also includes a one-year NSTA membership so in the months after the conference, I will have access to hundreds of lessons, online learning web seminars, and monthly journal articles.

Offering opportunities for further learning and development is a great way to show your appreciation for the teaching profession and thus, support for your staff, like me. I hope you agree that my attendance at NSTA MINN25 is a valuable investment that will help elevate the quality of instruction in my classroom.

Thank you for considering this request. Please let me know if there is any additional information I can provide.

Sincerely,