

2025 Annual Report for the Outstanding Earth Science Teacher Award (OEST)

Executive Summary:

The Outstanding Earth Science Teacher (OEST) committee continues to advance excellence in earth science education. We now have an OEST/Award Coordinator in every NAGT section, ensuring broad representation and support for the award. Our selection and promotional processes have been streamlined with the use of rubrics, social media templates, recognition letters, and news releases. This year, we received 21 new nominations and recognized 8 section winners and 17 state/province winners, with some individuals receiving both honors. On November 16, 2024, we hosted the first annual [OEST Share-a-thon](#), featuring nine past winners sharing recommended classroom activities and projects; each presenter received a certificate in appreciation of their contributions. Additionally, we held our first fall 2024 OEST Committee meeting to plan the Share-a-thon and prepare for the 2025 award cycle. Looking ahead, we plan to host the second annual Share-a-thon and expand promotional efforts to increase engagement and nominations.

1. Committee Membership

- **Current Status:** We have a OEST/Award Coordinator for every NAGT section
- **Current Members:**

Section	OEST Coordinator name
Eastern	Amy Baer
Far Western	Nancy Chen
Northeastern	Susan Kelly
Pacific Northwest	Derek Turner
Rocky Mountain	Cheryl Manning
South Central	Sabrina Ewald/Aaron Ball
Southeastern	Rebekah Stanton
North Central	Michael Smith

- **Upcoming Needs:** Support from NAGT to host the second OEST Share-a-thon.

2. Promotional Activities

- **Streamlining Process:** Continuing to use and refine the templates for promotional social media graphics, letters of recognition, and news releases.
- **Delivery of Award:** Need to continue working on how/when the award is delivered. Trying to encourage school administration to present the awards at a faculty meeting or if the NAGT state reps are nearby perhaps they can deliver the award.

3. Statistics of Submissions and Selection Process

- **Rubric:** Continuing to use a rubric for the selection process.
- **Challenges:** Continuing to reach a wide audience and receive numerous nominations
- **Feedback:** Offering formative feedback on submissions to encourage reapplication.
- **Submissions:** Received 21 new nominations for the 2025 cycle, but pulled from the past 3 years to pick the 2025 winners.
- **Awards:** Awarded 8 section winners and 17 state/province winners.
- **Record Keeping:** An all-winners spreadsheet to maintain accurate records has streamlined the OEST award process with NAGT/SERC.

4. Awardee/Nominator and/or Grantees

- **Awardees:** Listed by section and state/province. Bolded names are the section winners.

Section	State/Province	First name	Last name
Eastern	New York	Carolina	Castro
Far Western	California	Jessica	Stellmann
Far Western	Nevada	Mary Beth	Paladino
North Central	Illinois	Fred	Fortman
North Central	Minnesota	Dana	Smith
North Central	Wisconsin	Carol	Ochsner
Northeastern	New Hampshire	Greg	Stott
Pacific Northwest	Washington	Emily	Carson
Pacific Northwest	Washington	Kyauna	Turner
Pacific Northwest	Oregon	Amy	Umbarger
Rocky Mountain	Colorado	Heidi	Bankoff
South Central	Texas	Stacy	Ferrell
South Central	Oklahoma	Angela	Thomas
Southeastern	Alabama	Shawn	Schlumpf
Southeastern	Georgia	Eileen	Fennelly
Southeastern	Mississippi	Alisha	Halford
Southeastern	North Carolina	Carrie	Jones
Southeastern	Tennessee	Rebekah	Stanton

5. Plans for Award Promotions

- **Share-a-thon:** The OEST Committee is hoping to host the second annual share-a-thon for OEST winners in spring 2026.
- **Presenters:** The plan is to invite OEST winners from 2022 to the present to present.