
2025 Outstanding Undergraduate Science Teacher Award (OUSTA) Application

Presented by the Society for College Science Teaching (SCST)

Purpose

The SCST OUSTA recognizes the achievements of an outstanding undergraduate science teacher. The selection process evaluates nominees according to the following weighted categories: 1) teaching excellence; 2) scholarship; and 3) service.

- SCST membership is not required
 - Must have been actively involved in teaching undergraduate science for the previous five (5) years
 - Colleague, student, and self-nominations are acceptable
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Evaluation Categories

The criteria for each category shall include, but not be limited to, the following categories, listed in order of weight:

Teaching excellence as evidenced through teaching philosophy and effectiveness; teaching innovations; and course and curriculum development.

Scholarship as evidenced through publications in science education, presentations, grants received, and other forms of scholarship, including discipline-based research.

Service to science education, students, the profession, scientific and educational organizations, the nominee's institution, local teachers and school systems, and the general public with the overall goal of enhancing understanding of scientific issues.

Selection Procedure

After consultation with the SCST Executive Board, the President shall appoint one of the SCST Councilors-at-Large to hold the 2-year position of Chair of the OUSTA Selection Committee (OUSTA Chair). The OUSTA Chair will assemble three SCST members whose

primary role is the teaching of undergraduate science and who are not currently serving on the Executive Board to serve as the OUSTA Selection Committee.

The OUSTA Selection Committee is responsible for the solicitation of nominations, the evaluation of the nominees, and has the delegated authority to design and implement whatever review procedures are deemed best for a timely and valid review. The OUSTA Chair will send the Committee's recommendation to the President. Final approval or rejection of the Committee's selection rests with the Executive Board.

Subsequent notification of the award winner and presentation of the award will be carried out by the President. Notification of unsuccessful candidates will be carried out by the OUSTA Chair. The OUSTA Chair and/or media management-related Board Members will announce the winner to the membership via email and website.

Applications from the previous OUSTA cycle may be carried over into the next award cycle for consideration at the request of the applicant.

Award Specifics

- \$2500 check
- A plaque
- A complimentary, 1-year membership to SCST

Duties of the OUSTA Winner

- Attend the 2025 NSTA/SCST National Conference
- Present the Marjorie Gardner Lecture at the SCST National Conference
 - The talk should focus on their innovations or strategies in teaching that would appeal to a wide audience of scientists and science educators
- Participate in specified SCST convention events and activities (e.g. Past President's Breakfast, business meeting, socials) during the SCST/NSTA conference
- Participate in the SCST Virtual Poster session as an attendee or presenter

Application Requirements

- Narrative statement** that includes
 - Statement of teaching philosophy
 - Description of teaching strategies and innovations
 - Description of contributions to the discipline or pedagogy

- Evidence of commitment to contributing to the community beyond the classroom
- Maximum length: 5 pages

Current resume or curriculum vitae

- Published materials and funded proposals should be listed separately from submitted papers and pending proposals

Letter of recommendation from the nominee's **Dean or Department Chair**

- Specifically addresses teaching effectiveness
- Summarizes evaluations of the nominee's teaching

References from

- Two colleagues
- Two students

Summary of recent teaching evaluations

Optional: Supplemental materials

- Maximum length: 5 pages
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Submission Procedure

- All items must be in **pdf** format
 - A **single (combined) pdf** of all application materials is **preferred**
 - Email application material as an attachment
 - **Email Subject:** Applicant's name OUSTA application
 - To the OUSTA Committee Chair, Christa Haney, at Haney@geosci.msstate.edu
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Deadline

All application materials must be received by **November 1, 2024 by 11:59 CDT.**

Questions

Contact the OUSTA Committee Chair, Christa Haney, at Haney@geosci.msstate.edu

Timeline

Applications due	November 1
OUSTA Chair sends Committee Recommendation to President	December 2
SCST Executive Committee decision; applicants notified soon thereafter	Mid-December
OUSTA Winner delivers Marjorie Gardner Lecture at NSTA/SCST conference	March 2025