

## Annual Awards for Excellence in Teaching:

- Elementary Education
- Middle/Junior High Science
- Physical Science
- Life Science
- Earth/Space/Environmental Science
- General/Multiple Science
- Science Supervisory; (Private, AEA, Museum, Naturalist, etc.)
- S.T.E.M. Science; Elementary, Middle, and High School

## Evaluation of Applications

Applications are evaluated according to evidence in the following areas:

- Strong Educational Background
- Commitment to science education and to professional development
- Creation of a stimulating environment for learning science
- Mastery of educational strategies and appropriate assessments



Nominate online or by mail.

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Iowa's Premier Science  
Organization since 1875.

The mission of the Iowa Academy of Science is to further scientific research, science education, public understanding of science, and recognize excellence in these endeavors.

Learn more and nominate

on the IAS website at:

[www.scienceinlowa.org/esta-nominations](http://www.scienceinlowa.org/esta-nominations)

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# Iowa Academy of Science Excellence in Science Teaching Awards





## ESTA

Since 1954, the Iowa Academy of Science has recognized quality science teachers within Iowa's K-12 schools through the **Excellence in Science Teaching Awards Program**.

Nominations are encouraged from administrators and colleagues or a teacher may self-nominate.

One Award may be made in each category except Elementary Science, where two awards may be given and for S.T.E.M. Science where three awards may be presented; one each at the Elementary, Middle, and High School levels. Winners are honored at a luncheon during the IAS Annual Meeting where they receive a plaque and \$100.00. Visit <https://www.scienceiniowa.org/esta-past-awards> for a list of past award winners.

## Application Procedure

ETSA Applications consist of two letters of reference and an application completed by the nominee. There is no application form. The nominator should provide a copy of this brochure to the nominee and follow-up with the nominee to be sure that the application procedures have been completed. ESTA Applications are accepted from February 1st to the following January 31st. Winners are notified mid-March and recognized at the Iowa Academy of Science Annual Meeting in April. Late materials will be judged in the following year. The Awards and Recognition Committee works with the ESTA Director to evaluate nominations. Non-winning applications will be held and judged a second time in the following year.

## Letters of Reference

Two letters of reference highlighting the nominee's competence are required. One *must* be a direct administrator at the nominee's current assignment. The other may be a colleague, parent of a student, or a student. Provide the name, title, telephone number and email address of each reference in the application.

Nominees, if you received this brochure with a nomination letter from the IAS Executive Director, then your nominator has already provided one of your letters of reference.



## Application

On a Cover page include the following basic information:

- Name, school address, city, zip, school & home phone, home address and email address
- Award category
- Science education experience including present responsibilities
- Educational background (college, graduate work, institutes, etc)

## Essay Questions

Answer the following essay questions:

1. Describe your professional development experiences, including membership, presentations, attendance at conferences, projects and future goals.
2. Compose a list of the top 5 characteristics of an effective science teacher/coordinator, briefly explaining each characteristic's importance.
3. Describe the assessment strategies that you employ when evaluating in many different learning activities.
4. Select one unit, major concept, or noteworthy project/effort that is especially successful and describe the objectives, strategies employed, and why you consider it exemplary.