

**Society for
College Science Teachers
(SCST)**

*Outstanding Undergraduate
Science Teacher Award*

OUSTA
Application Packet

Society for College Science Teachers Outstanding Undergraduate Science Teacher Award

A. PURPOSE

To recognize the achievements of an outstanding science teacher. This annual award is based upon a selection process that evaluates nominees according to the following ranked categories: 1) teaching excellence; 2) scholarship; and 3) service.

A nominee need not be a member of SCST, but should have been actively involved in teaching undergraduate science for the previous five (5) years. Nominations may be made by colleagues or students. Self-nominations are also encouraged.

B. CATEGORY GUIDELINES

The criteria for each category shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

Teaching excellence as evidenced through teaching philosophy and effectiveness, teaching innovations, and course and curricula 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.

Entries should include:

- a narrative statement, no longer than five pages, that includes a statement of teaching philosophy, including a description of teaching strategies and innovations; a description of contributions to the discipline or pedagogy; and evidence of commitment to making a contribution to the community beyond the classroom

In addition, the following materials must be submitted

- a letter of recommendation from the nominee's Dean or Department Chair that specifically addresses teaching effectiveness and summarizes evaluations of the nominee's teaching
- two additional references from colleagues
- two recommendations from students
- a summary of recent teaching evaluations
- a current resume or curriculum vitae.
- supplemental materials may be submitted, but should not exceed five pages

C. SELECTION PROCEDURE

After consultation with the SCST Executive Committee, the President shall annually appoint the Award Selection Committee prior to the spring annual meeting of the SCST. Membership shall consist of three (3) SCST members whose primary role as faculty is in the teaching of undergraduate science and who are not currently serving on the Executive Committee. The Chair of the Selection Committee shall be one of the Councilors-at-Large, who will be appointed at the fall Executive Committee meeting and who will serve as Chair for two years.

The 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. A formal letter regarding any recommendation by the Committee must be sent to the President, and final approval or rejection of the Committee's selection rests with the Executive Committee. Subsequent notification of the award winner and presentation of the award will be carried out by the President. Notification of unsuccessful candidates, and announcement of the winner for publication in SCST/NSTA newsletters and journals, will be carried out by the Chair of the Selection Committee.

D. AWARD SPECIFICS

The winner of this award will receive a \$1500 check, a plaque, a complimentary joint membership in SCST and NSTA, and up to \$500 for travel to the 2017 NSTA/SCST National Convention.

E. DUTIES OF THE AWARD WINNER

The winner of this award agrees to attend the SCST/NSTA National Convention for 2017 and present the Marjorie Gardner Lecture. The topic of the talk should focus on his/her innovations or strategies in teaching that would appeal to a wide audience of scientists and science educators.

The winner will also participate in specified SCST convention events and activities (e.g. Past President's Breakfast, Business Meeting, socials) during the NSTA meetings for which travel support is provided.

Application Check Sheet

Society of College Science Teachers (SCST) Outstanding Undergraduate Science Teaching Award (OUSTA)

- ___ Narrative statement (five-page maximum length)
- ___ Letter of recommendation from the Dean or Department Chair
- ___ Two references from colleagues
- ___ Two references from students
- ___ Summary of recent teaching evaluations
- ___ Current resume or curriculum vitae with published materials and funded proposals listed separately from submitted papers and pending proposals.
- ___ Supplemental materials not exceeding five pages (Optional)

Note: All items must be sent as attached pdf files by e-mail to the OUSTA Committee Chair, Heather Scherr at heather.m.scherr@lonestar.edu. A single (combined) pdf of all application materials is preferred. Please use *Applicant's name OUSTA application* as the subject of the email.

All application materials must be received by ***July 15, 2016***.

Questions?

Email the OUSTA Committee Chair - Heather Scherr heather.m.scherr@lonestar.edu

Timeline

July 15, 2016	Application packets due to OUSTA Committee Chair
September 1, 2016	OUSTA Committee makes notification to SCST President
September 15, 2016	SCST Executive Committee decision; applicants notified soon after
March or April 2017	NSTA/SCST Conference – Awardee delivers Marjorie Gardner Lecture

Summary of Award Items and Responsibilities

The winner of the OUSTA will receive:

- \$1500 check
- Customized plaque
- Complimentary one year membership in both NSTA and SCST
- Up to \$500 for registration, travel and lodging at the NSTA/SCST National Conference

The winner of the OUSTA will be responsible for:

- Delivering the Marjorie Gardner Lecture during the SCST sessions at the National Conference
- Attending various sessions and/or the SCST Social at the National Conference