

The Reflector

North Carolina Science Teachers Association Winter 2020

President's Message

Welcome to one of the weirdest years of our lives. It makes us want to sit back on our haunches and gaze at the world in wonder. However, it doesn't make us wonder if we're going to get through it. We know we will get through it.

As teachers, you all have inherited the 'pioneer' gene. You're always ready to explore the new and different. Well you're doing things differently now. And you've learned a thing or two.

I have faith in your resilience. I also know you need the fellowship and help of other teachers just as they need you. That help and fellowship is what the NC Science Teachers Association (NCSTA) is all about.

During this past October, a group of science teachers devised a fun and fast-paced set of three seminars each with 25 elementary lessons. Thanks goes to Brad Rhew (Guilford), Laura Lowder (Stanly), and Manly Midgett (Wake) for these fun and eventful trainings. We all learned something. This group is recruiting helpers and suggestions for a Spring Elementary Lessons' series. Stay tuned for more fun!

Don't think that the middle and high school teachers let any grass grow on them. At the end of October, they started a three-session series of pertinent topics for higher grades. The first session had an emphasis on virtual assessment strategies. The second session held on December 2 was a townhall forum with DPI. The third session will be more middle and high school topics and is scheduled for January 20 at 5:00 p.m. Sign up on the website (www.ncsta.org) for online trainings.

The NC Science Teachers Association's Board is just a group of science teachers who have stepped up to lead and to serve all science teachers. During this weird time warp we're in now, this group understands your needs are a bit different but still the same as always. They'll continue to offer online sessions designed to help classroom teachers in this coming year. They're open to ideas and to enthusiastic helpers. It's easy to contact them through your District Director.

REMEMBER the great NC Science Teachers Association's conferences? Didn't happen this year ☹️. But it's scheduled for next November 4-5, 2021, in Winston Salem. Be prepared to **Launch your science program into a higher orbit** at the conference with a great keynote speaker. Strands will include digital literacy, blended and virtual science classes, and basic STEM sessions. Cross your fingers that we'll all be able to be there face-to-face. Stay tuned for the request for proposals coming in the spring!

In November, a wonderful group of educators were recognized at the NCSTA Virtual Awards Ceremony and members meeting. Do you know someone who is doing an outstanding job even during these trying times? Also during this virtual meeting, grants were awarded for several successful applicants.

More information about the awards' categories and the grant opportunities are on the website (www.ncsta.org). Stay tuned for the awards nominations and grant application opening dates for 2021!

The NC Science Teachers Association is your organization and is here to serve your needs. Please consider participating in some leadership capacity, assisting the organization with your ideas and finances if feasible, and spreading the word to fellow science teachers about the Science Teachers Association's services and fellowships.

Meet Our New NCSTA President - Sandra Weitzel

Sandra Weitzel, Education and Outreach Coordinator for the North Carolina Division of Soil and Water Conservation for 23 years, has served with the NC Science Teachers Association Board for a number of years. She holds an undergraduate degree in Agronomy-Basic Science and a Master of Science degree in Soil Science with an emphasis in soil chemistry from North Carolina State University in Raleigh. Sandra has been a NC Certified Environmental Educator for more than 15 years. She is the state-wide coordinator for the Envirothon program and for the Food, Land & People program.



NCSTA District Award Winners 2020

Each year, NCSTA solicits nominations for outstanding science teachers from each region at the elementary, middle and high school level. Nominations are due in the late spring and recipients are recognized at our annual Professional Development Institute (PDI). Recipients receive a plaque and a complimentary one year membership to NCSTA. Recipients are selected based on their ability to engage students and improve scientific literacy. The year's recipients were recognized at our annual awards ceremony in November. A big congratulations to each of them for advancing scientific knowledge and skills in North Carolina. Be sure to check back in the late winter/early spring when nominations open for the 2021 awards.

District 1:

- *Outstanding Elementary School Science Teacher:* Lori Dozier, Jamesville Elementary School
- *Outstanding Middle School Science Teacher:* Ashley Jones, Grifton Middle School
- *Outstanding High School Science Teacher:* Ashley Pointe, Riverside High School

District 2:

- *Outstanding Elementary School Science Teacher:* Tracy McIntyre, Queens Creek Elementary School
- *Outstanding Middle School Science Teacher:* Kristen Davenport, EB Frank Middle School
- *Outstanding High School Science Teacher:* Jessica Croson, Heide Trask High School

District 3:

- *Outstanding Elementary School Science Teacher:* Jennifer Carson, Grady Brown Elementary School
- *Outstanding Middle School Science Teacher:* Hannah Guggemos, Lowe's Grove Middle School
- *Outstanding High School Science Teacher:* Lori Craven, Panther Creek High School

District 5:

- *Outstanding Middle School Science Teacher:* David Boyer, Kernersville Middle School
- *Outstanding High School Science Teacher:* Michael Mode, Southwest Guilford High School

District 6:

- *Outstanding Elementary School Science Teacher:* Colleen Boyea, Newell Elementary School
- *Outstanding Middle School Science Teacher:* Tiffany Carter, Community House Middle School
- *Outstanding High School Science Teacher:* Krista Shunkwiler High School

District 7:

- *Outstanding Elementary School Science Teacher:* Samantha Bowers, Bethlehem Elementary School
- *Outstanding Middle School Science Teacher:* Chastity Bolch, Newton-Conover Middle School
- *Outstanding High School Science Teacher:* Ashley Mayo, Caldwell Early College High School

District 8:

- *Outstanding Elementary School Science Teacher:* Donna Pyatt, Pleasant Gardens Elementary School
- *Outstanding High School Science Teacher:* Tressa Hartsell, Mountain Heritage High School



NCSTA Grants Award Recipients



Covey Denton, Sally B Howard School of the Arts

This grant provide numerous materials and resources for Covey to teach hands-on, inquiry-based science. She has created ways to use resources both in person and virtually to keep here students engaged. The activities created will have a positive impact on student learning in science.



Wayne Shore, Fuller Elementary

The grant will be used with multiple grade levels of students to engage them in engineering through robotics. Students will compete in LEGO competitions using the materials. His goal is incorporate the robotics materials in multiple subject areas. He is planning to implement this program in a virtual setting to keep students engaged in learning.



Dr. Kelly Norton Pipes, Wilkes Early College High School

Kelly will complete a course in project/challenged based learning. She will take her experience and apply it to her classroom and community and learn how to build community partnerships. This will be a continuous project that will serve the school and community for multiple sessions.



NCSTA is delighted to be sharing the theme for our 2021 conference with you! We will have some fun activities, a great keynote speaker, door prizes and giveaways – all to add excitement while you participate in this wonderful professional development opportunity available to you. What will you add to the mix? Be thinking about what you would like to present – perhaps something you have learned during these challenging times. Go to our website <https://www.ncsta.org/> to see the strands and their descriptions.

NCSTA Diversity Inclusion Statement

The NC Science Teachers Association (NCSTA) was formed in 1969 with the mission of promoting excellence in science teaching and learning in North Carolina. The purpose of NCSTA shall be the advancement, stimulation, extension, improvement, and coordination of science teaching in all fields of science at all educational levels. We believe that science instruction should be provided and accessible to all students, as well as professional development opportunities for those that provide such instruction. As science educators, we recognize the uniqueness of each student's background and the contributions he or she brings to the science world. As an organization we are charged with fostering quality science education for all students regardless of race, creed, ethnicity, religion, and gender expression. In order for equitable science to be attainable for all, we believe the following must

- Schools and informal science settings provide quality instruction and/or programming for all students.
- Science educators are knowledgeable about and use culturally relevant teaching pedagogy and instructional strategies.
- Lessons should be designed or curriculum should be selected that positively, accurately, and equitably portrays individuals.
- Science educators should be reflective and cognizant of their own biases and learn how to combat such bias.
- Science educators should create inclusive learning environments that allow all students to participate in science, encouraged to take risks and know that their opinions and voices matter.
- Science educators should highlight the successes of those in the science world, especially individuals from the LGBTQ+ community and all underrepresented groups such as women and minorities.

As an organization we will help with these instructional strategies and professional characteristics by providing quality professional development.

Keep Up To Date with NCSTA On Social Media and Our Website

Keep up to date with NCSTA by visiting our website, www.ncsta.org, and following us on social media:

- [Twitter](#)
- [Facebook](#)
- [Instagram](#)
- [YouTube](#)

Keep Rolling - Manley Midgett Submission

As part of our commitment to assist our members, NCSTA will offer sample lessons plans along with other support in our upcoming newsletter. This month, we are excited to share a lesson submitted by NCSTA board member, Manley Midgett. Manley is well respected by science educators across North Carolina.

In the "Keep On Rolling" activity, students will investigate and explore the motion of a toy car and variables that may impact its motion. The attached file is a complete lab including directions, data tables, and concluding questions. This activity may be completed both in a face to face classroom and virtually. NCSTA would like to thank Manley for submitting this.

Continue to be on the look out for upcoming editions of the Reflector for more helpful resources and lesson plans.



Keep on Rolling-MWM.docx

[Download](#)
19.9 KB



NCSTA WISHES
YOU MUCH JOY &
HAPPINESS DURING THIS
HOLIDAY SEASON.

