

## THE ZULA INTERNATIONAL–NSTA EARLY SCIENCE EDUCATOR AWARD

### PROGRAM SUMMARY:

A partnership of the Zula International and the National Science Teachers Association, this award recognizes two pre-Kindergarten through second grade school teachers, who have innovative science inquiry programs in early education. One award will honor a member of either the National Science Teachers Association or the Council of Elementary Science International, while the second will honor a member of the National Association for the Education of Young Children or the National Head Start Association.

The award consists of \$400, and \$1000 to attend the NSTA National Conference on Science Education. The recipient of the Award will be honored during the Awards Banquet at the NSTA Conference.

The winning selection will become part of NSTA's and Zula International's Web sites and thus available for use by other early childhood teachers and students. Award recipients agree to:

- ★ Correspond by email, and possibly other means, with early childhood science teachers to share experiences and information related to lessons selected
- ★ Encourage students to share their work on the project with children in schools around the world, via Internet and other means.
- ★ Cooperate with NSTA as this information is collected in ways designed to improve the teaching of science in early childhood school setting.
- ★ Local press coverage.

### ELIGIBILITY:

Applicants must be a full time teacher with membership in NSTA, CESI, NAEYP, or NHSA, and teach pre-kindergarten through second grade .

### CRITERIA FOR JUDGING:

Demonstration of science inquiry innovation in the early childhood education classroom, which includes:

- ★ Effective planning skills that includes:
  - a. Program goals
  - b. curriculum
  - c. implementation
  - d. execution, outcomes
- ★ Demonstrated impact and engagement of students, families, and the community
- ★ Support of early education science standards
- ★ Meet proper safety procedures

### AWARD SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

- ★ Completed application form with signature
- ★ A narrative describing the nominee's innovative science inquiry program/practices, science implementation techniques, parent/family engagement, and student/family outcomes and impact, not to exceed 500 words.
- ★ Two lessons supporting the objectives described above, along with examples of student work representative of that lesson. Supplemental sample materials, documents, and/or photographs are encouraged (drawings, digital photographs, journal entries, etc...).
- ★ Two letters of support: one from an education colleague who can describe the merit of the applicant's work, and one from a parent involved in the science program. Letters should not exceed three pages each. Letters of support should accompany packet. Letters sent separately will not be considered
- ★ Attach a resume or vita, not exceeding two pages, which includes a brief description of your teaching experience, education, and previous awards and recognition.
- ★ All correspondence must be in 12 point Times New Roman font.

Upon receipt, applications become property of NSTA. Applications will not be returned to applicants. Late or faxed applications will not be accepted. All material must be submitted at the same time using the online submission process established for this award. Completed applications must be received by November 30.



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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Level \_\_\_\_\_

School Name \_\_\_\_\_

School Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ FAX (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ FAX (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Requirements: NSTA  Membership Number \_\_\_\_\_

CESI  Membership Number \_\_\_\_\_

NAEYC  Membership Number \_\_\_\_\_

NHSA  Membership Number \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever received an NSTA award? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, list year and award received. \_\_\_\_\_

School Population \_\_\_\_\_ School Type  Public  Private  DoD  Urban  Rural  Suburban

Applicant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Principal's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that the applicant is a full-time classroom preK–2nd grade teacher at the above referenced school. I fully support the submission of this application.

Principal Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Send your original application and supporting materials to

Zula International–NSTA Early Science Educator

NSTA

1840 Wilson Boulevard

Arlington, VA 22201-3000

Or submit electronically including all necessary documents as attachments, with the Submit Form Button on the Checklist. See next page.

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Questions? Please visit our website at [www.nsta.org/awards](http://www.nsta.org/awards) or e-mail [awards@nsta.org](mailto:awards@nsta.org).



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### CHECKLIST

Occasionally we receive entries that are incomplete or in which the applicant did not follow the specified guidelines. Entries that do not follow the stated rules for submission are disqualified, regardless of the merit or innovation of the entry. Make sure you and a colleague review the checklist below before sending in your application so you can ensure that your efforts will not be disqualified. Ensure that your application communicates the information you intend. Don't forget to check for correct spelling. All written components should be typed and double spaced, on standard 8-1/2" x 11" white paper, with 1" margins. The font is a standard 12-point size or larger. If you have questions regarding your application, please e-mail [awards@nsta.org](mailto:awards@nsta.org).

#### **Complete the list, sign it, and attach it to your application. Each entry includes**

- A completed Zula International-NSTA Early Science Educator Award application form reflecting National Science Education Standards, signed by you and your principal.
- A narrative describing the nominee's innovative science inquiry program/practices, science implementation techniques, parent/family engagement, and student/family outcomes and impact, not to exceed 500 words.
- Two lessons supporting the objectives described above, along with examples of student work representative of that lesson.
- Two letters of support: one from an education colleague who can describe the merit of the applicant's work, and one from a parent involved in the science program.
- Attach a resume or vita, not exceeding two pages.
- Application is bound together with a binder clip (no presentation binders).
- Include the completed application

Please be advised that you may apply for more than one award; however, you are eligible to win only one NSTA award per year. Each application must be based on a unique program and process. Submission of the same idea and materials to different NSTA award programs will result in the disqualification of all applications. If your idea or project has received an NSTA award in the past, that idea or project is not eligible to receive an additional award. If you are selected to receive an award, NSTA must request and receive your social security number to issue a 1099 form to you. If your program is currently grant funded, confirm that you, as an individual, are eligible to receive a cash award. Your application will not be returned and becomes the property of NSTA. If you have received an award for this project from another provider, you must notify NSTA. If your application is selected to receive an award, NSTA reserves the right to reproduce information/photos/other content in promotional material and on the NSTA website. By submitting material that contain images of students and other individuals, you assume complete responsibility for obtaining appropriate release consent forms and permission to transfer these materials to NSTA. Electronic submission is preferred. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

By submitting this form I attest that I have secured (if needed) the required authorization of my principal/supervisor for consideration of this award by the Awards & Recognitions Committee.



# NSTA AWARDS – 2009/10

## Zula Award

### Official Scoring Guide

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State: \_\_\_\_\_

Eligibility: \_\_\_\_\_ School (Pre-K-2)

Membership: \_\_\_\_ (NSTA) \_\_\_\_ (CESI) \_\_\_\_ (NAEYC) or \_\_\_\_ (NSHA)

Criteria	Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	Superior	Weight	Total
Completed application with signature	1	2	3	4	5	X 1	
Narrative describing the nominee's extraordinary science teaching-500 words.	1	2	3	4	5	X 2	
2 Lesson Plans with examples of student work	1	2	3	4	5	X 2	
2 Letters of support up to 3 pages (1 education colleague, 1 parent)	1	2	3	4	5	X 1	
Vita, up to 2 pages	1	2	3	4	5	X 1	
Effective planning (program goals, curriculum, implementation, execution/outcomes)	1	2	3	4	5	X 1	
Demonstrated impact/engagement of families/community.							
Meets proper safety procedures.	1	2	3	4	5	X 2	
Supports early education science standards.	1	2	3	4	5	X 2	
<b>Grand Total</b>							

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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Judge: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_