



May 7, 2009

Greetings,

I'd like to introduce myself to you, share some information, and ask for your support—all in one fell swoop!

I'm Joe Sciulli, director of professional development programs for the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA), and the information I'd like to share is about NSTA's New Science Teacher Academy, www.nsta.org/academy.

In April, NSTA announced that it is accepting applications for the 2009 NSTA New Science Teacher Academy. The NSTA New Science Teacher Academy, co-founded by the Amgen Foundation, is a year-long professional development program established to help reduce the high attrition rate among science teachers new to the teaching profession. Intended for science educators entering their second or third year of teaching, the Academy is designed to help promote quality science teaching, enhance teacher confidence and classroom excellence and improve teacher content knowledge.

For this academic year, NSTA will select 185 teachers to participate as fellows in the 2009 Academy. NSTA Fellows chosen for the program receive a comprehensive membership package, online mentoring with trained mentors who teach in the same discipline, and the opportunity to participate in a variety of web-based professional development activities, including web seminars. In addition, each NSTA Fellow receives financial support to attend and participate in NSTA's National Conference on Science Education, taking place in Philadelphia, March 17-21, 2010.

Science teachers located throughout the country, who will be entering their second or third year of teaching and whose schedule is a minimum of 51 percent middle or high school science, are encouraged to apply for the program. Applications must be submitted no later than **June 30, 2009** to be considered.

Although we reach a large number of individuals involved in the science education community, there are still many science educators out there that don't know about this program. I'm hoping that you'll help spread the word and include the news about this exciting opportunity on your Web site and/or in your member newsletters and communications. The most comprehensive information to date can be found on the Academy Web site, link listed above.

If you have any questions please let me know. Thank you for your efforts to get this important information out.

Cordially,

Dr. Joe Sciulli

Program Director

Mickelson ExxonMobil Teachers Academy

NSTA New Science Teacher Academy

NSF/eMSS PI

Phone: (703) 312-9218