

Elementary (K-6) & Secondary (6-12) Teachers: Apply for the Donna Sterling Exemplary Science Teaching Award 2022



Donna Sterling was a visionary science educator with a passion for working with science teachers and developing habits of inquiry-based teaching. Her leadership in the Virginia Initiative for Science Teaching and Achievement (VISTA) focused on elementary and secondary teacher professional development. This award recognizes that exemplary teachers engage in continuous improvement and is designed to support a professional development plan for the improvement of science teaching. In 2022, the award will be given to an exemplary elementary teacher **and** an exemplary secondary teacher. **For the elementary award the 6th grade teacher must be teaching in an elementary setting. For the secondary award the 6th grade teacher must be teaching in a secondary setting such as middle or high school.**

Each awardee will receive a total of **\$4000**. In addition, registration and travel costs will be reimbursed to attend the 2022 VAST PDI to receive the award and to the 2023 VAST PDI to present a session on the professional development experience and outcomes. Each awardee will receive \$3000 at the VAST PDI in 2022, held at Williamsburg November 10-12, 2022. The remainder will be awarded after the awardee presents at the next VAST PDI and submits an article to the newsletter *The Science Educator* or the *Journal of Virginia Science Education*.

Deadline for Applications: August 15, 2022

To Apply:

1. In your cover letter, include information on yourself, including your preferred name, your home and school addresses, and phone numbers and email address(es) where you can be reached. Tell us how many years you have taught, where, and what subjects and grade levels.
2. In no more than two pages, single-spaced, **describe an inquiry-based science unit** that you taught. Describe how your unit is student-centered and includes community engagement. Give evidence that the unit was effective. Evidence documents such as student work can be submitted separately and will not count toward the two-page limit.

3. In no more than two pages, single-spaced, describe your plan for professional development, using the funds received through the Sterling award. These plans may include summer courses, attendance at workshops, study abroad opportunities, instructional materials development under the guidance of experts on-site, etc. Feel free to be creative in your plan. Submit the professional development description with anticipated outcomes, including plans for a presentation at the 2023 VAST PDI. Tell how this award will help you become a better teacher of science and will support the development of leadership skills. Tell about your plans for writing an article about your experiences.
4. Submit **three letters of recommendation** based on direct observations of teaching. One letter must be from the science supervisor or someone serving in that capacity, a second letter must be from the principal, assistant principal, or instructional leader, and a third letter must be from a fellow teacher or a parent. Letters should address the following: Why is this teacher a good candidate for this award? What qualities do they exhibit as teachers that make the recommender think they will use the funds from the award to improve their practice as teachers of science?

All materials must be submitted by 5 pm on August 15, 2022.

Submit applications and letters of recommendation to Dr. Juanita Jo Matkins, jjmatk@wm.edu .