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Contact:

Kate Falk, NSTA
(703) 312-9211
kfalk@nsta.org

Stephanie Wright Receives the Wendell G. Mohling Outstanding Aerospace Educator Award from the National Science Teachers Association

ARLINGTON, Va. — April 18, 2012 — The National Science Teachers Association (NSTA), the largest professional organization in the world promoting excellence and innovation in science teaching and learning, has announced the recipients of its 2012 Teacher Awards Program, which honors K–12 teachers, professors, principals, and other educators for their outstanding achievement and innovative programs in science education.

Stephanie Wright, president and chief executive officer of the Delaware AeroSpace Education Foundation in Smyrna, Delaware, was awarded the Wendell G. Mohling Outstanding Aerospace Educator Award. Co-sponsored by Sally Ride Science and the Northrop Grumman Foundation, this award recognizes excellence in the field of aerospace education. Wright was honored for her accomplishments last month during a special banquet and ceremony and also at the Aerospace Educators Luncheon at NSTA's 60th National Conference on Science Education in Indianapolis.

For more than 20 years, Wright has helped DASEF achieve its vision of creating an exceptional learning environment that inspires teachers, students, children and their families, and other members of the Delaware Valley community with a sense of appreciation for the Earth and its place in the universe. She has ensured that DASEF employs science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) resources and programs to provide exposure and experiences for teachers, students and their parents, and the general public to support the enhancement of knowledge and skills, and to provide access to information in the STEM fields and geography. Programs such as workshops, school field trips, and summer aerospace academies build strategic connections between STEM formal and informal education providers that promote STEM literacy and awareness of aerospace education.

She has earned such awards and honors as the Frank G. Brewer Memorial Aerospace Award from the Civil Air Patrol, Middle East Region; the Educator Achievement Award from the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics; and an Outstanding Education Alumna award from the University of Delaware. She is an active member of many professional associations, including NSTA, the National Education Association, the International Technology Education Association, and Women in Aerospace. Wright currently serves on Delaware's Informal STEM Committee; as Delegate and Education Chair of the Aerospace States Association; and as a member of the Advisory Board and K-12 Outreach group for University of Delaware's NASA Space Grant.

“Because of her strengths and determination, teachers over the years have had an amazing array of professional development opportunities...She embodies the spirit and values that Wendell Mohling stood for as an educator, a lifelong learner, and a role model for other educators,” says a grateful elementary educator.

“NSTA awardees represent the best and brightest in science education,” said Patricia Simmons, president, NSTA. “We congratulate Dr. Wright for her lifelong commitment to science education and for her innovative and creative approach to teaching our students science.”

Wright received a cash award and expenses to attend the NSTA National Conference on Science Education.

NSTA encourages science educators to apply for its 2013 Teacher Awards. Applications and information can be found online at <http://www.nsta.org/about/awards.aspx>.

About NSTA

The Arlington, VA-based National Science Teachers Association (NSTA), www.nsta.org, is the largest professional organization in the world promoting excellence and innovation in science teaching and learning for all. NSTA's current membership includes approximately 60,000 science teachers, science supervisors, administrators, scientists, business and industry representatives, and others involved in science education.

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