

Early Bird Registration ends February 1, 2019



Still deciding whether to attend the NSTA conference? Hear from State and National Leaders about their personal experiences and reasons for attending as well as the impact attending a conference had on a preservice teacher!

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Dear Everyone:

And by everyone that includes science teachers, teachers of science, teachers who have yet to discover that they want to teach science, preservice educators, college students, college faculty, and well – EVERYONE!

Did you know?

- Astronaut Scott Kelly, who spent a year in space, will be coming to St. Louis! Hear about his experience and his discussion of how *Endurance* helped him achieve this goal.
- Astrophysicist Sean Carroll is researching that the world we experience! Did you know that the world is constantly branching into different versions, representing the different possible outcome of quantum measurements and he will explain what that means to all of us.
- 25+ children's authors will join us for *Linking Literacy* and be in one location to speak to you about integrating science and literature. We have other featured programs for elementary teachers such as the *Elementary Extravaganza*.
- There are unbelievable featured speakers such as Joseph Davis, Tiffany Besse, Leslie Cook, Kevin Krasnow, Joe Petrick, Kiana Frank, and Paul Anderson on topics related to our conference strands.
- Share-a-thons and opportunities for networking at the *Meet Me in the Middle* and *Set Your Sights Higher* events!
- Oh, and NSTA will be celebrating its 75th anniversary!

So many opportunities and that's before you see the many additional sponsored speakers, presentations, and vendors in the exhibit hall.

The conference will begin with concurrent sessions on Thursday, April 11, at 8:00 AM and end on Sunday, April 14, at 12 Noon. Additional information can be found at: <https://static.nsta.org/pdfs/2019NationalPreview.pdf>. If you are looking to attend, please also note the early bird registration rate is February 1st.

Join current colleagues and friends and meet new colleagues and friends as we focus on the theme of this conference and all increase our efforts to be **Champions for Science Education!**

I do hope that you will join us and that I'll see you in St. Louis!

Christine Anne Royce, Ed.D.

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2018-2019 NSTA President

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"After the amazing networking and inspiration I received at a NSTA STEM forum, regional conference, and NCSE congress, I am so excited to bring my colleagues along and bond with them during my first national-level conference."

Tim Elsen, 8th grade Wichita science teacher, KATS president

Since joining NSTA and attending two national conferences, I can honestly say that the quality of my science lessons has increased. I attended great sessions geared towards primary learners, and I walked away with so many new ideas to implement. Not only do participants learn from presenters, but the informal conversations with colleagues result in the sharing of new, fun, and meaningful classroom activities. I am excited to be attending the St. Louis conference this year, and I will definitely be in attendance at the Elementary Extravaganza share session!

Nancy Smith, 1st Grade Teacher, Olathe, KS, KATS President-Elect, 2017 PAEMST, Kansas Agricultural Teacher of the Year

I have been attending NSTA conferences since 1988 the first was held in town. I have found most of the best practices I use and incorporate are from hearing a great speaker, attending a workshop, or networking with other members. The opportunity to attend a national conference in St. Louis does not happen often so I am especially excited to have this huge learning activity in my own backyard. As an elementary person, I am especially excited to attend the **Linking Literacy Event** with many accomplished authors. I am confident I will learn a lot and have much to share! Please, Meet me in St. Louie!

Carrie Launius, SPLS Elementary Science Coordinator, District XI Director (Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska)

Why you should absolutely attend the NSTA conference if you are a Student

I added 1-day last year in Baltimore, and instantly regretted not having more days down there. I felt that I did not have as much time to learn and gather *freeeee* resources (I went home with a whole bag of items that I could use in my classroom, like a rock kit!). (This student went to a regional.)

-I was able to reconnect with former teachers from high school and middle school, even teachers that I had observations with!

-This is a powerful time to be able to network. You are surrounded by professors, science teachers, administrators, science companies, etc. You will be able to get your

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name out there & the fact that you are a student means so much more, that you are going out of your way to be there prior to your professional years.

-Your professors will understand you missing class on Thursday and Friday to attend this conference. Receive your work ahead of time, there will be down time at night to get things done. Whenever I attended conferences last year, all my professors encouraged me to go and never deny an opportunity for professional (& personal) development.

-It is so much fun, you get to play around with science experiments all day.

Again, I could make this list go ON & ON, but I will stop here.

----***McKenzie Horn, NSTA student member***

I started attending NSTA conferences in 2015's Regional Conference in Charlotte, NC. I was amazed at the number of exhibitors and resources they were giving FOR FREE in the exhibit hall. Since that time, I have lost count of the number of exceptional presentations I attended. Not only did I gain many resources to use in my classroom, I also have been able to build a large professional network of teachers across the United States. We keep in touch through social media and it's always wonderful to run into a familiar face at the conferences. Teaching in a rural district, going to conferences is essential to build your PLN and keep up with the latest research based classroom practices.

Nicole Vick, Science Teacher, Abingdon-Avon CUSD 276, NSTA District XII Director (Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin), NGSS@NSTA Curator and Professional Learning Cadre Member

My first experience in attending an NSTA conference was the regional conference in Kansas City in 2015. This was a special conference because not only was I attending for the first time, but I was also presenting for the first time ever with the American Chemical Society as a teacher leader for their ChemComm program. To say I was excited would be putting it mildly. I was amazed at the number of sessions available and the exhibitors in the vendor area. There was something for everyone. Then I went to the national conference in Atlanta in 2018. Everything I thought about the regional conference paled in comparison to what I was able to experience in Atlanta. Even more sessions and vendors. Even more opportunities for me to grow as an educator. I came back to my district very excited to share with them all the new things I had learned that would help us better implement NGSS. I can honestly say going to these conferences has changed the way I teach for the better. The opportunities I have to learn from and collaborate with other master educators has been extremely beneficial to me and to my students. I don't ever want to miss another NSTA conference.

Clara Bennion, High School Science Teacher, Camdenton, MO, STOM President, 2018 Camdenton Secondary Teacher of the Year, 2015 Missouri Outstanding Educator

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Attending the NSTA conferences is an incredible opportunity for science and STEM educators to enhance their knowledge of content and pedagogy, add to their toolbox of resources and ideas, and develop lifelong friendships and collaborations! It is extremely inspiring and encouraging to be surrounded by thousands of other educators who are as passionate about science and STEM teaching and learning as me - I always leave feeling recharged and supported in my journey in science education!

Jen Gutierrez, K-12 STEM Education Specialist, NSTA Division Director of Professional Development

I started attending NSTA conferences 3 years ago, and the time invested time away from the classroom to attend the conference has been well worth the time away from my students because it has helped me become a better teacher. The time I spend at the conference allows me the opportunity to enhance my knowledge of content, and the sessions at the conferences have always provided me with ideas that I take back into my classroom. The conferences have also helped in building relationships with peers who have challenged me to become a better educator. I advise anyone who wants to learn and be challenged as a professional they should attend an NSTA conference.

Jodi Bahr, Science Teacher, NATS Past-President

I have attended almost every NSTA National Conference since I started teaching 20 years ago. I value this conference over any other professional development as just about every idea or new project I have started has come from some idea from this conference. If you want to become excited and energized about science education, this is the conference you have to be at.

Mike Szydlowski, Columbia Public Schools Science Coordinator, STOM Retiring President, NSTA St. Louis Conference Chair

NSTA Conferences are the place to be! I have attended several over my career and always come away energized and enriched from the experience. Yes, I can always find things on-line, but the interactions with some of the best science teachers and educators in the country can only be experienced at the conference. I hope to see you in St. Louis!

Paul Adams, Dean College of Education Fort Hays State University, NSTA Division Director for Preservice Teacher Preparation, KATS Member

NSTA Conferences have made a big impact on my professional career. Each conference has provided support for my learning in a way that allows me to grow in all areas. As a leader it provides the opportunities for me to learn from other leaders and glean their expertise in science and science education so that my teachers and students can learn from me. As a science educator and love of all the sciences, it pushes my thinking and

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understanding of how to teach science and ensure ALL students have opportunities to grow and learn about science so that we ensure success for our students in a science world. The energy and passion of the fellow science educators in attendance is enough to push my thinking and enthusiasm about science and science education. I hope to see you at the St. Louis NSTA National Conference in April!

Eric Hadley, Science and Little Creek Coordinator for the Ferguson Florissant School District. NSTA St. Louis Conference Program Chair.

Attending the NSTA national convention has always been an wonderful experience for me. I started attending NSTA conferences as a classroom teacher. Not only did I get lots of ideas and materials that I could take right back to my classroom and implement, I also had the opportunity to meet other science teachers who, over the years, have been my friends and colleagues. They have supported me, pushed me to try new things, and given me the courage to try things I might never have tried. Now, as a college professor, I still find things I can use in my courses, still meet people who are doing amazing things, and always look forward to the NSTA conferences. St. Louis is your opportunity to experience being at a conference with other science teachers, amazing speakers, an exhibit hall of resources, and find those colleagues who can be your science network. If this is your first conference, there are session specifically for you to meet other first-timers, learn about how to get the most out of your conference, and ideas for what to see and where to go. For those whom have been before, encourage others to attend with you to see just how great the conference is. I look forward to seeing you there!

Elizabeth Allan, NSTA College Division Director, Professor, Biology Department, Coordinator of Secondary Education, Oklahoma University