
TSTA Student Program Awards

Revised October 2009

Deadline for Submission:

March 4, 2012

The TSTA Student Program Foundations – Teacher Quality, Community Outreach, Cultural Competency, and Political Action – are the underlying areas of focus that direct Student Program activities. It is in these areas that our members and affiliates sponsor programs, educate on issues, and affect change.

Teacher Quality encompasses pre-professional development and job preparation. At local meetings and workshops, state conferences, and national symposiums, our members encounter professional development opportunities: guest speakers on classroom management, experts on testing and practitioners sharing tips on smoothly running science labs. Job preparation comes in the form of resume workshops, portfolio tutorials, mock interviews and new teacher panels. Student Program publications and websites share *teacher quality* information relevant to our members, including certification requirements and resources for working with special needs children. Student members and chapters partner with Local Associations to enhance in-the-classroom opportunities and secure “real world” insights into the education profession. Students shape their college curriculum by serving as change-agents on boards and committees. Our members’ involvement in the TSTA Student Program increases their ability to become quality teachers.

Community Outreach describes how TSTA Student Program members engage the people and environment around them; we impact our communities – locally and globally – and value the meaningfulness of such involvement. Our members learn about communicating with parents, experience partnering with local businesses, and find grant support through Chamber of Commerce consortiums. Through the NEA-SP family, we design and implement projects as diverse as after-school tutoring programs, Harry Potter learning carnivals, and Senior Citizen dances. New teachers who are TSTA Student Program Alumni are more successful in helping their students achieve because they know how reaching out to the community provides them access to material and human resources.

Cultural Competency reflects the capacity of teachers to value and teach students with backgrounds different from their own. It also incorporates issues of and around social justice. SP members enhance their understanding of these issues through education on issues such as the achievement gaps, effectively working with school and parent groups to address bullying and other forms of harassment in the school setting, and strategies for working with English Language Learners. The impact of social justice is all-encompassing.

Political Action includes both the realization that political and legislative issues impact the education world and the initiative to get involved. We celebrate issue awareness around vouchers, IDEA funding, and state-mandated new teacher rights. We share information with peers, family and community. We sponsor voter registrations, get-out-the-vote activities, contact elected officials, help elect pro-public education officials, and lobby our local, state and national legislators. By educating each other, organizing activities and publicizing our involvement, we are making an impact. The TSTA Student Program encourages its members to apply and/or nominate those individuals and/or affiliates that have excelled during the current academic year.

- Distribution of the awards packet is done through the TSTA-SP Program Coordinator. Applications can be accessed directly via the TSTA-SP Student Program website at <http://www.tsta.org/inside/student/SPawards.pdf> beginning January 24, 2012.

- All nominations and supporting documents must be postmarked or received in the TSTA Student Coordinator's office on or before March 4th, 2012. Information may be sent electronically; however, each application must be complete and include all supporting documentation (such as letters of recommendation).
- All nominees will be listed in the TSTA Student Program Conference program.
- Winning entries will be announced at the TSTA Student Program Awards Dinner, held in March at the site of the TSTA Student Leadership Conference in Austin, Texas.

The TSTA-SP Coordinator, TSTA Communications Specialist and Editor, and the TSTA-Vice-President will judge:

Recipients and/or Nominees Eligible for Submission for NEA-SP Awards Program

Outstanding Local Advisor Award
 Outstanding Local Student Leader Award
 Outstanding Local Underclassman Award
 Outstanding Local Newsletter Award
 Outstanding Local Website Award
 Outstanding CLASS Project (formerly Outstanding Human Relations Project Award)
 Glenn W. Kidd Local Excellence Award

Recipients and/or Nominees Not Eligible for NEA-SP Awards Program¹

Outstanding Local Scrapbook Award
 Outstanding T-Shirt Award

All applications, nominations and supporting documents must be postmarked or received in the TSTA Student Program Coordinator on or before March 4th, 2012. You may want to consider mailing materials with a return receipt request to ensure your application arrives at TSTA Headquarters. All questions may be directed to the TSTA Student Program Coordinator. Please send entries and/or questions to:

Bryan Weatherford, TSTA-SP Coordinator
 TSTA-SP Student Awards Program
 TSTA
 316 West Twelfth Street
 Austin, Texas 78701

Phone: 512-476-5355 (ext. 1445)
 Toll-Free: 800-324-8782 (ext. 1445)
 Fax: 512-486-7043
 E-Mail: bryanw@tsta.org

<http://www.tsta.org/inside/student/SPawards.pdf>

Award Applications will be available online beginning January 24th, 2012.

¹ NEA-SP does not give awards in these areas.

LOCAL CHAPTER AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

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ADDITIONAL AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

- Highest Increase in Number of Members (no application)
- Highest Percentage Membership Increase (no application)
- PAC Fundraising Certificates – (no application)
- PAC Fundraising Award Highest Amount Per Member
- PAC Fundraising Award Highest Amount Raised

****PAC fundraising forms will be sent to the TSTA-SP Coordinator separately***

FEEDBACK FORM – *page 18*

AWARDS CHECKLIST – *page 19 - 20*

Outstanding Local Scrapbook² Award

The TSTA Student Program recognizes and commends historical products of the local chapters. If multiple nominations are submitted, awards will be divided between local chapters based on the following sizes:

- Locals with 25 or fewer members
- Locals with 26 - 50 members
- Locals with 51 - 100 members
- Locals with more than 100 members

Criteria used in the judging process include scrapbook substance (particularly the extent to which the publication reflects the four TSTA-SP core values (Teacher Quality, Community Outreach, Cultural Competency, and Political Action) as well as the degree of creativity and the overall appearance of the scrapbook. Scrapbook content will account for 60% of the total score and overall appearance will account for 40%. The awards will be based on the effective and creative expression of the spirit of the local and its reflection of the TSTA-SP theme "I Teach! What's Your Super Power?"

Examples of content include representation of membership, activities, public relations, human relations, involvement in campus activities, monthly coverage, and pictorial coverage. Examples of appearance are general appearance (cover), color, creativity, balance, eye-appeal, and neatness. The judging will be focused on the content of the presentation.

Local Chapter Name _____

Name of State Organization: Texas State Teachers Association-Student Program

Scrapbook Category:

- 0 – 25 members 26 – 51 members 51 – 100 members Over 100 members

(Scrapbook Category to be determined by TSTA based on TSTA-SP membership as of March 4, 2012.)

Nominator: _____

Title/Position: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number (best contact number): _____

Email Address: _____

Nominator's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Outstanding T-Shirt Award

The TSTA Student Program recognizes local chapters that exhibit the TSTA-SP theme most effectively on a T-Shirt. Each item will be judged according to the following criteria:

² Scrapbooks are defined as an informal historical record of a local's year-long activities, events, and personalities.

- ✓ Cost Effectiveness
- ✓ Creativity
- ✓ Originality
- ✓ Quality
- ✓ Overall Appearance

The entry should adhere to the following criteria:

1. The T-Shirt that to be presented must carry the TSTA-Student Program Theme **“I Teach! What’s Your Super Power?”**
2. The T-shirt must be made at a reasonable cost (\$10 - \$25), excluding the set-up charges.
3. All award entries must include at least one T-Shirt with the submission of the nomination form. ***Any nomination submitted without a T-Shirt will be disqualified for consideration.***

Local Chapter Name _____

Name of State Organization: Texas State Teachers Association-Student Program

Description of T-Shirt: _____

Approximate Cost of Item(s): _____

Nominator: _____

Title/Position: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number (best contact number): _____

Email Address: _____

Nominator’s Signature: _____ Date: _____

New Local Chapter Recognition

The TSTA Student Program New Local Chapter Recognition is designed to highlight the effort and dedication that comprise the organization of a new local Student Program chapter.

Local Chapter Name _____

Local Chapter Location (city, state) _____

Local Chapter Officers (name, title) _____

Members (#) _____

Local Chapter Activities (in brief) _____

Verification by State Organizer:

Signature

Date

Outstanding Local Advisor Award

The TSTA Student Program Outstanding Local Advisor Award recognizes an individual for dedication and service to the TSTA Student Program at the local level.

The nominator must submit a 1-2 page essay. In this essay, please answer all of the questions below to highlight the Local Advisor's outstanding qualities and actions. Include illustrative examples for *each* question and how *each* contributes to the success of the Student local.

- In what ways has the Advisor supported the chapter leaders and members?
- How has the Advisor advocated for the student program with other faculty/administration on campus?
- How has the Advisor demonstrated open communication with the campus officers and members?
- Describe at least one situation where the Advisor demonstrated his/her commitment to the chapter.

Additionally, *two* letters of recommendation should be submitted from individuals *other than* the nominator (be specific). Applications will be judged solely on information provided.

A complete nomination packet includes the contact information below, a 1-2 page essay from the nominator, and 2 letters of recommendation from other individuals.

Nominee's name _____

Name of Local Association _____

Name of State Association: **Texas State Teachers Association-Student Program**

Nominator _____

Title/position _____

Address _____

Phone number _____

E-mail address _____

Nominator's signature _____ Date _____

Outstanding Local Student Leader

The TSTA-SP Student Program Outstanding Local Student Leader Award recognizes an individual who has achieved excellence throughout the year by providing leadership to the Local Student Program.

The nominator must submit a 1-2 page essay. In this essay, please answer all of the following questions to highlight the Local Student Leader's outstanding qualities and actions? Include illustrative examples for *each* question and how *each* contributes to the success of the local Student Program.

- How has the student leader increased membership numbers and member participation on campus?
- In what professional development activities, at the local, state, or national level, has the leader participated?
- What programs/projects has the student leader implemented in ***at least one of the four*** core values: Teacher Quality, Political Action, Cultural Competency, and Community Outreach?
- How has the leader made a difference in the community or on campus?
- What specifically has the student leader done to provide opportunities to others and grow new leaders?
- In what ways has the student leader developed a sense of teamwork and communication on campus?

Additionally, two letters of recommendation should be submitted from individuals *other than* the nominator (be specific). Applications will be judged solely on information provided.

A complete nomination packet includes the contact information on the following page, a 1-2 page essay from the nominator, and 2 letters of recommendation from other individuals.

Nominee's name _____

Name of Local Student Chapter _____

Name of State Association: **Texas State Teachers Association-Student Program**

Nominee's address _____

Nominee's e-mail address _____

Nominator _____

Title/Position _____

Address _____

Phone number _____ E-mail address _____

Nominator's Signature _____ Date _____

Outstanding Local Underclassman

The TSTA Student Program Outstanding Local Underclassman Award recognizes a freshman or sophomore who has achieved excellence throughout the year by providing leadership to the Local Student Program.

The nominator must submit a 1-2 page essay. In this essay, please answer all of the following questions to highlight the Local Underclassman's outstanding qualities and actions. Include illustrative examples for *each* question and how *each* contributes to the success of the local Student Program.

- How specifically has the student helped the chapter?
- In what professional development activities has the student participated?
- What has been the student's impact on chapter members or in the community?
- In what ways does the student stand out from other underclassmen on campus?

Additionally, two letters of recommendation should be submitted from individuals *other than* the nominator (be specific). Applications will be judged solely on information provided.

A complete nomination packet includes the contact information on the following page, a 1-2 page essay from the nominator, and 2 letters of recommendation from other individuals.

Nominee's name _____	
Name of Local Student Chapter _____	
Name of State Association: <u>Texas State Teachers Association-Student Program</u>	
Nominee's address _____	
Nominee's e-mail address _____	
Nominee's year in school	<input type="checkbox"/> Freshman <input type="checkbox"/> Sophomore
Nominator _____	
Title/Position _____	
Address _____	
Phone number _____	E-mail address _____
Nominator's Signature _____	Date _____

Outstanding Local Newsletter

The TSTA Student Program Outstanding Local Newsletter Award recognizes and commends publications at the local level.

Criteria used in the judging process include newsletter *substance* (particularly, the extent to which the publication reflects the four TSTA-SP foundations), *creativity* and *appearance*.

Please submit the following information, along with three identical copies of two issues of the newsletter (non-returnable).

University name_____
Local Student Chapter_____
State Association: <u>Texas State Teachers Association-Student Program</u>
Newsletter Name_____
Total Local Student Membership_____
<i>Circulation:</i> Number of members at local who receive newsletter_____
<i>Frequency:</i> List publication dates during this academic year._____

<i>Financial Support:</i> Indicate funding amounts and sources. (for example, the Local Student Chapter funds \$x, XYZ Local Association funds \$x, etc.)_____

Nominator_____
Title/Position_____
Address_____
Phone number_____
E-mail address_____
Nominator's Signature_____ Date_____

Outstanding Local Website

The TSTA Student Program Outstanding Local Website Award recognizes and commends websites at the local level.

Criteria used in the judging process include website *substance* (particularly, the extent to which the publication reflects the four TSTA-SP Core Values), *creativity* and *appearance*.

Please submit the following information.

Local Student Chapter_____

State Student Association: **Texas State Teachers Association-Student Program**

Website Address_____

Total local Student Membership_____

How often is the site updated? Who is responsible?_____

How is input/feedback on the site determined?_____

Is there a cost for the web space or upkeep?_____

Nominator_____

Title/Position_____

Address_____

Phone number_____

E-mail address_____

Nominator's Signature_____ Date_____

Local Excellence Award

The **TSTA** Student Program Local Excellence Award recognizes Local Student Chapters that have achieved excellence throughout the year by providing members with leadership and development opportunities in the areas of teacher quality, community outreach and political action.

For judging purposes, applications will be divided into groups based on membership; please mark the appropriate category for the nominated local.

- Locals with 25 or fewer members
- Locals with 26 - 50 members
- Locals with 51 - 100 members
- Locals with more than 100 members

Applications are meant to be a collection of materials and examples reflecting the areas listed below. Materials may be organized in binders (**1-inch maximum**) and might include items such as meeting agendas and synopses, brief descriptions of outreach projects and related publicity, or a list of get-out-the-vote activities and impact statements. *Please do not include originals.* This is not a scrapbook and will not be judged on aesthetic quality. Brief descriptions, explanations, and reflections are valuable to the judging committee.

Please include a 1-4 page essay. In this essay, please answer all of the following questions. Submit your essay along with the binder and your application cover sheet located on the next page.

<p><u>Organization and Infrastructure</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What strategies does your chapter use to recruit members? • Has your chapter increased membership? If yes, how did you do it? If no, what would you try next year? • How did your chapter recruit a diverse membership (minority, male-female, elementary-secondary...)? • How does your chapter communicate with its members and potential members?
<p><u>Teacher Quality</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What professional development opportunities has your chapter provided? • How have you recruited members through your professional development workshops? • How has your chapter partnered with other organizations to provide workshops? • How do you know the professional development workshops you offer have helped better prepare your student members for the classroom?
<p><u>Community Outreach</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What has your chapter done to give back to the community? • How have you recruited members through your community outreach projects? • How do you gain media attention for your community service projects? • How do you know your projects have made a difference in the community?
<p>Cultural Competency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does your chapter define cultural competency? • What training (through meetings, website, print media, etc.) has your chapter provide on issues of social justice (bullying, harassment, achievement gaps, etc.) this year. • How have you publicized these events in local and/or association media?
<p><u>Political Action</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How would you define political action? • In what political activities has your chapter been involved? • How have you recruited members through your political activities? • How do you know your political activities are making a difference with your members or the community? • How do you convince your members it's important to pay attention to politics as a future educator?

The following information should be included in the Local Excellence Award application.

University name_____

Local Student Chapter_____

State Association: **Texas State Teachers Association-Student Program**

Nominator(s)_____

Title/Position_____

Phone number_____

E-mail address_____

Nominator's Signature_____Date_____

Outstanding CLASS Project

The **TSTA** Student Program Outstanding CLASS Project Award recognizes exceptional projects that impact the community and partner student members with other Association members.

Submit an account of the CLASS project, including a written description, pictures, newspaper clippings, and other information. Include a 1-2 page essay. The essay includes answers to each of the questions below: Submit your essay along with the binder and the application cover sheet (see below).

- What were the original goals of your CLASS Grant project?
- To what extent were the goals met?
- What was the greatest success of your project? How do you know?
- What was the least successful part of your project? How would you overcome that problem next time?
- To what extent did the project included other Association members (Active/Retired/ESP/Higher Education)
- How do you know your project had an effect on the community?
- What are your plans to continue this project in the future?

Please do not include originals. **Please limit your award application to a 1/2 inch binder.**

In order for the project to be eligible for the Outstanding CLASS Project Award, the End-of-the-Year Evaluation must be received by the NEA Student Program Office or submitted with this application.

Name of CLASS Project_____

Project date(s)_____

Sponsoring student Association (this may be a Local Student Chapter or a State Student Program)

Nominator_____

Title/Position_____

Address_____

Phone number_____ E-mail address_____

Nominator's Signature_____ Date_____

- The End-of-the-Year Evaluation has been mailed to the NEA Student Program Office.
- The End-of-the-Year Evaluation is included with this application.

The **TSTA** Student Program modified the Awards applications October 9, 2009. Please share your input with us so that we can continue our improvements.

Submit this feedback along with your application, or under separate cover.

1. Which award application(s) did you complete?
2. What did you like best about the application or the Awards Packet?
3. As you completed the application, in what areas did you have questions or encounter a lack of clarity?
4. What would make the application and packet more user-friendly?
5. Are there *criteria* that you feel should be incorporated into the awards applications?
6. How might the application process be improved?

All components of the following awards must be submitted electronically or postmarked by **March 4, 2012**. All components must be submitted together.

Outstanding Local Scrapbook

- Nomination Form of Information (Page 5)
- Scrapbook

Outstanding Local T-Shirt

- Nomination Form of Information (Page 6)
- Description of T-Shirt
- T-Shirt Sample

New Local Chapter Recognition

- Nomination Form of Information (page 7)
- Signature of State Student Organizer

Outstanding Local Advisor Award

- Nomination Page of Information (Page 8)
- 1-2 Page essay from the nominator
- Two (2) Letters of Recommendation

Outstanding Local Student Leader Award

- Nomination Page of Information (Page 9)
- 1-2 page essay from the nominator
- Two (2) Letters of Recommendation

Outstanding Local Underclassman Award

- Nomination Page of Information (Page 11)
- 1-2 page essay from the nominator
- Two (2) Letters of Recommendation

Outstanding Local Newsletter Award

- Nomination Page of Information (Page 12)
- Two (2) non-returnable copies of the same issue of the newsletter

Outstanding Local Website Award

- Nomination Page of Information (Page 13)

Local Excellence Award

- Nomination Page of Information (Page 14)
- 1-4 page essay
- Binder must not exceed one inch