

Welcome

Developing a Competitive Application for the Shell Science Lab Regional Challenge

November 3, 2025
7:00 PM ET



Collection of Resources



**This collection includes the slides (as PDF),
handouts and other resources.**



Link to the collection:

https://my.nsta.org/collection/R6vegVUuD3c_E

Meet Today's Presenters...



Amanda Upton
Sr. Manager of Shell
Programs
NSTA



Ruth Ruud
Head Reviewer for the Shell Science
Lab Regional Challenge
NSTA

Empowering Science Classrooms

Shell Science Lab Regional Challenge and Shell Teacher Awards

Programs of NSTA



Why You Should Be Excited

You're here because:

- You're committed to meaningful science education
- You want to grow professionally and expand opportunities for your students
- You deserve recognition and support

Let's explore two powerful award programs that can help make that happen.



Samantha Mendenhall

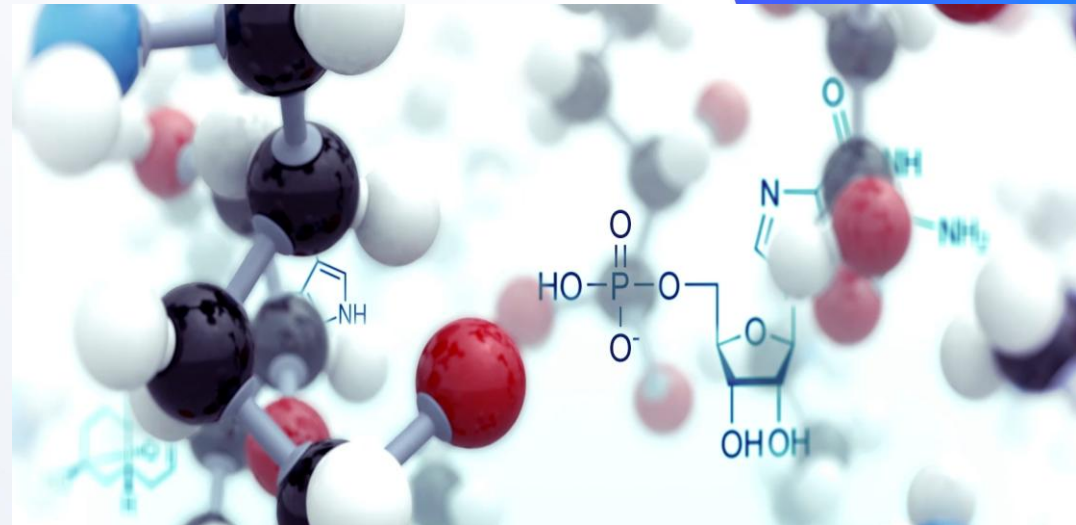
MIDDLE LEVEL

What is the Shell Science Lab Regional Challenge?

A national competition that:

- Supports science educators in under-resourced schools
- Helps improve hands-on STEM instruction
- Provides lab makeover funding and professional development

💡 You don't need a perfect lab to win—just a passion for teaching science creatively



What You Can Win



- Up to \$20,000 in professional development and lab makeover support

- Trip to the NSTA National Conference (Fall 2026)

- Networking and recognition on a national level

- Access to NSTA, Flinn Scientific, and Smithsonian resources for STEM education



Who's Eligible?

- You teach K–12 in a public, private, or charter school
- Your school lacks sufficient lab resources or equipment
- You're committed to improving science teaching access for your students

If this sounds like your classroom—you're exactly who this challenge is for!



Why Apply?

✓ Give your students the tools they deserve

✓ Strengthen your teaching impact

✓ Join a community of innovative educators

✓ Elevate your voice in science education



Hear from A Past Challenge Winner



Cecelia Gillam



Submission Requirements



Support
letter



Curriculum
Vitae

Instructional Strategies

Lab Activity

Current and Desired Lab Resources

Narrative Question One

Science Instructional Strategies

Teaching Philosophy

- You learn science best by experiencing it through conducting investigations

Current Science Lab Equipment

- Limited and outdated, while the technological resources are restricted to a shared, grade-level computer cart

Current Upgrade is Needed

- This school year teacher had to borrow dissecting tools from her college instructor so students could dissect a fetal pig. During the dissection students were enthusiastic during the experience and about the connections to content previously taught.

Impact of Lab Upgrade

- Teacher wants to provide her students with these learning opportunities consistently and not be concerned with how to obtain the materials. She wants to acquire project-based kits that incorporate inquiry-based activities and critical-thinking skills to create a strong foundation for active learning.

Narrative Question Two

Current and Desired Lab Resources

My current lab setting is...

This year, my goal is...

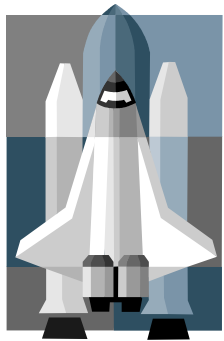


Currently I have...

The lab upgrade would impact my teaching by...

Narrative Question Three

Laboratory Activity



Vitae/Resume

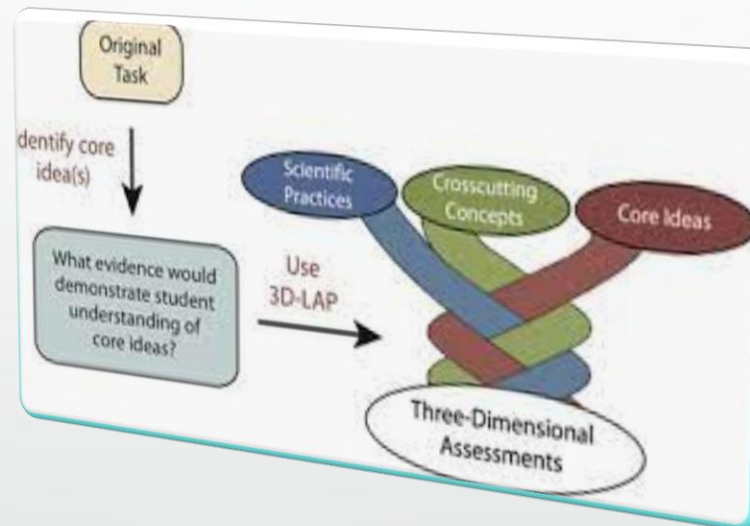
- *the bullets beyond employment information in the application are optional, but encouraged to complete for judging information*





Criteria for Judging

How science works





Letter of Support

Shell Science Educator Awards – At a Glance

Shell Science Teaching Award

 Honors one **exceptional K–12 science teacher** for classroom innovation and impact.

Award Includes:

 \$10,000 cash prize

 Expense-paid trip to **NSTA National Conference (Spring 2026)**

 National recognition

 **Apply or Nominate by:** December 19, 2025 www.nsta.org/shell

Shell Science Teaching Award



Shell Urban Science Educators Development Award



Supports K–12 science teachers
in urban schools pursuing
professional development.
Seven awards are given annually.



Award Includes:

-  Support to attend the NSTA National Conference
 -  Targeted PD for urban STEM educators
 -  Networking and leadership-building
 -  Apply by: December 19, 2025
- nsta.org/shell

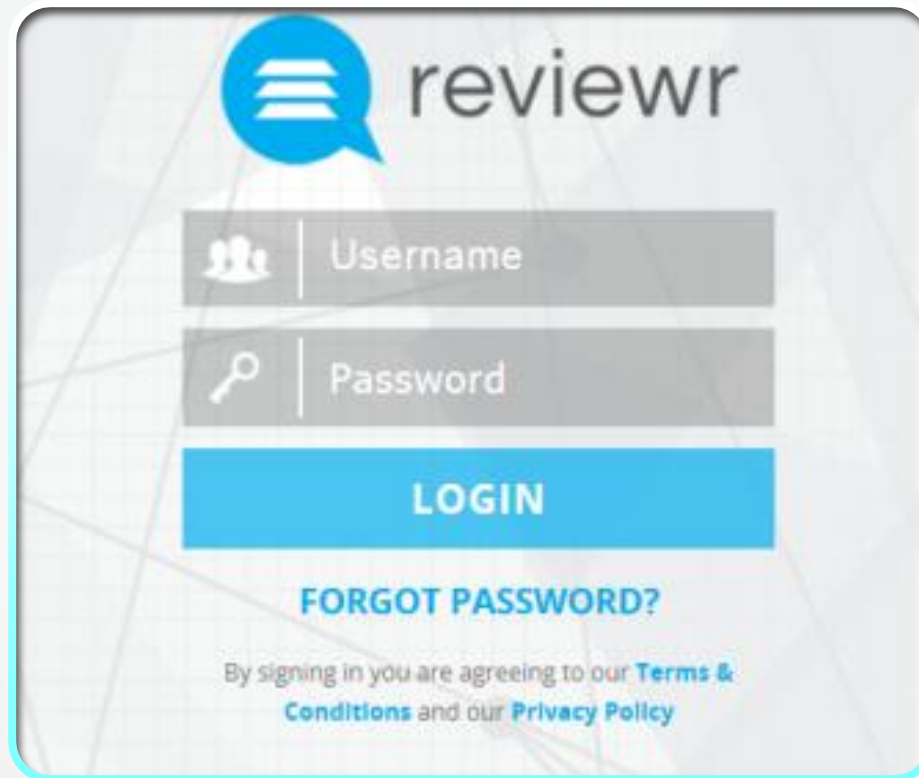
Shell Science Urban Science Educators Development Award



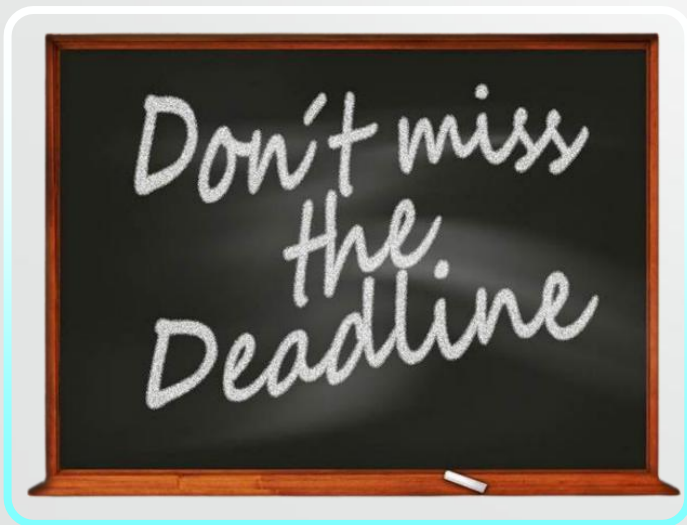
Judges Look For



Application Procedure



The image shows a login interface for 'reviewr'. At the top is the logo, which consists of a blue speech bubble containing three white horizontal lines, followed by the word 'reviewr' in a grey sans-serif font. Below the logo are two input fields: the first is labeled 'Username' with a grey icon of three people to its left, and the second is labeled 'Password' with a grey key icon to its left. Both fields have grey borders. Below these fields is a solid blue button with the word 'LOGIN' in white, uppercase, sans-serif font. Under the button is a link that says 'FORGOT PASSWORD?' in blue, uppercase, sans-serif font. At the bottom, there is a line of small text: 'By signing in you are agreeing to our [Terms & Conditions](#) and our [Privacy Policy](#)', where the links are in blue.

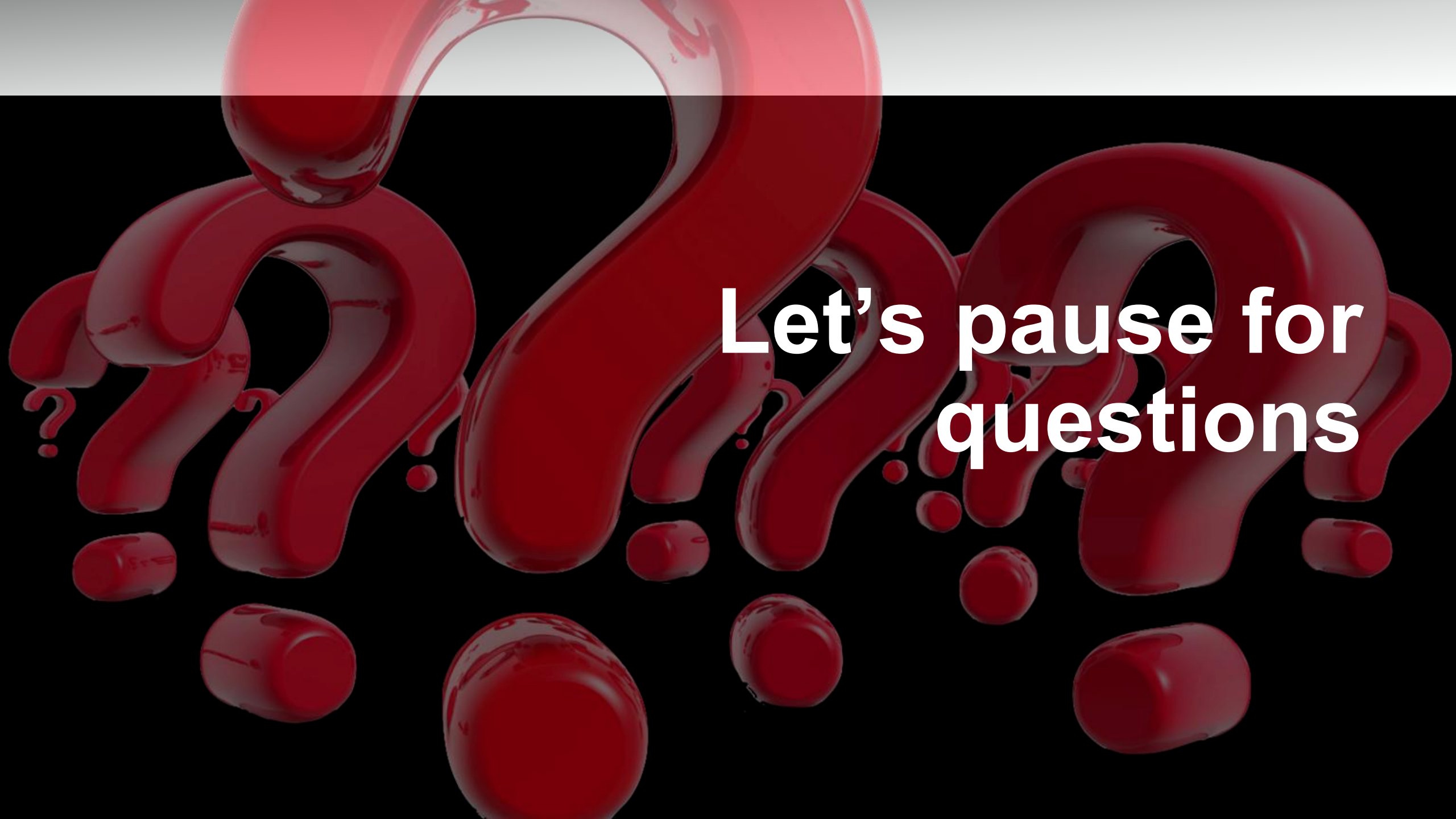


Amplify Your Impact



Whether you're leading in your classroom or building STEM pathways in your community: 💡 These awards are here to support, celebrate, and elevate you.

Ready to apply—or know someone who should? Let's make it happen!

The image features a large, three-dimensional, glossy red question mark as the central focus. It is surrounded by several smaller, similar red question marks and droplets of varying sizes, all set against a solid black background. The lighting creates bright highlights and deep shadows on the red surfaces, giving them a liquid, viscous appearance. The text "Let's pause for questions" is written in a clean, white, sans-serif font, positioned to the right of the main question mark.

Let's pause for
questions

Need More Information?



Transforming science education to benefit all through professional learning, partnerships and advocacy.

Thank you!

Amanda Upton

NSTA Senior Manager

Shell Programs

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www.nsta.org/shell

Thank you to Shell, NSTA, and Flinn Scientific, for partnering to recognize outstanding elementary, middle and high school programs for exemplary approaches to lab instruction utilizing limited lab resources.



Thanks to Today's Presenters...



Amanda Upton
Sr. Manager of Shell
Programs
NSTA



Ruth Ruud
Head Reviewer for the Shell Science
Lab Regional Challenge
NSTA

Thank You for Participating!



<https://www.nsta.org>

Post-program Survey – *coming up!*



We value your feedback!

The post-program survey link will be shared after the recording is stopped at the end of the program.

Your completed survey confirms your attendance which allows us to award you a certificate of participation and attendance.



NSTA Opportunities: Web Seminars



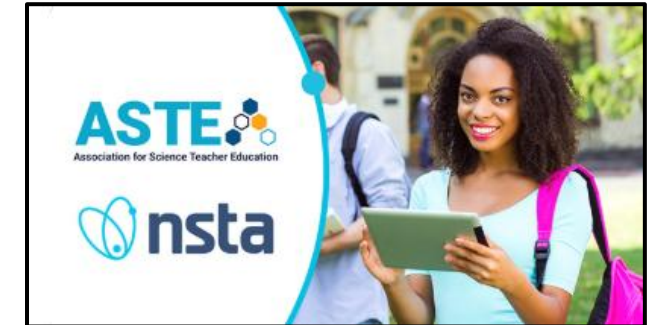
Sensemaking in the Science Classroom: Building the Foundation for Deeper Learning

Tuesday, November 4, 7:00 PM ET



The Power of Partnership: Mentoring, Coaching, and Instructional Support for New Teachers

Wednesday, November 5, 7:00 PM ET



Bringing Quantum Science to the K-12 Classroom

Thursday, November 6, 7:00 PM ET



<https://www.nsta.org/webseminars>



Science Notebooks in Student-Centered Classrooms

Feb. 4, 11, 18, and 25, 2026

BOOK
STUDY

Enhancing Instruction with the NSTA Sensemaking Tool

Mar. 3, 10, 17, and 24, 2026

TOPIC
STUDY

NSTA Opportunities: Conferences



NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE EDUCATION

MINNEAPOLIS 25

NOVEMBER 12-15

<https://www.nsta.org/conferences-and-events>



National Science Teaching Association

Tricia Shelton, Chief Learning Officer

Zoe Evans, Senior Director, Education Programs

Flavio Méndez, Senior Director, Partnerships & eLearning

Patrice Scinta, Director, Instructional Materials

Jess Holman, STEM Education Specialist

Kristin Rademaker, Professional Learning Specialist

Emily Mathews, Instructional Materials Specialist

Jessica Eaton, Program Manager

Chloe Uli, Project Coordinator

Alicia Hernandez-Harris, Project Manager

Lee Ann Monteiro, Events Coordinator

Eddie Hausknecht, Senior Manager Web Development

Together, we are NSTA.



This concludes today's program.