The Real Miner Award, presented by NAGT since 1953, honors exceptional contributions to the stimulation of interest in the Earth sciences.

The Biggs Award, for Excellence in Earth Science Teaching, the GSA’s Geoscience Education Division’s Named Award, recognizes innovative and effective teaching among faculty at all institutions where the awardee has been teaching full-time for 10 years or less.

The Outstanding Earth Science Teacher Award (OSTE) Awards are given for “exceptional contributions to the stimulation of interest in the Earth sciences at the pre-college level.” Any teacher or K-12 educator who covers a significant amount of Earth science content with his or her students is eligible. Ten national finalists are selected, one from each NAGT regional section. Some sections also recognize state winners.
SOUTHWESTERN SECTION
NO AWARD IN 2012
TEXAS SECTION
JULIE DYSER ARCHER
Westbrook Intermediate School, Friendswood, TX
Middle school science teacher Julie Archer leads by example, giving her students the opportunity to see not only her successes but her failures and to see that she is a lifelong learner. In addition to formal education—she recently earned a master’s degree in curriculum and instruction—she has participated in programs such as Boeing’s Space Academy for Educators at NASA’s Johnson Space Center for 2012, she taught after-school programs in robotics (FLF and FTC) and this year coordinated a K-12 science fair. Trained in GIS at the University of Alaska Southeast, she has worked on science lesson plans with the University of Alaska Fairbanks Science Teacher Education Program. She says, “My hope for all my students is for them to be science literate so they can make informed decisions and be productive citizens by becoming part of the solution.”

MARYLAND
WILLY HERRERA
Augusta Felix Savoy
Institute of Visual Arts, Baltimore, MD
Willy Herrera, 2007 Teacher of the Year at Harperrk Park Middle School, Baltimore, new teacher science and serves as science department chair and a mentor teacher at an institute of visual arts. To these roles he brings experience gained in workshops such as the Honeywell Space Camp Academy and the Black Holes Workshop at Pennsylvania State University and in working as a demonstration teacher at an astrobiology workshop in California. His students design rocket launches with the Maryland Science Center and Goddard Space Flight Center and participate in “Journeys Through Time” (SEIT), “Art, Science, Physicist” and “Starry Night” curricula. His nominator writes “He believes that he has the power to change the path if not the destiny of every student with the help of the state, the curriculum and the parents. He always attends the good fortune and for the good life that every student deserves.”

NEW YORK
JODY SUPRENANT
Fort Edward UFSDF, Fort Edward, NY
Jody Suprenant teaches science in the Fort Edward School District. She has worked as a NASA Aquarius Mission Concept Teacher for Concept Maps, a NASA/SONY Buf- falo STU.D.I.E.S. Teacher Con- sultant, and Upward Bound Program Consultant for Adirondack Community College.

NORTH CAROLINA
BEVERLY OWENS
Crest Middle School, Shelby, NC
Beverly Owens teaches at the Maryland Science Center and God- dard Space Flight Center and participates in “Journeys Through Time” (SEIT), “Art, Science, Physicist” and “Starry Night” curricula. Her nominator writes “She has participated in the JASON Train the Trainer con- vention in Virginia, the ‘Bay- ou Side Water Quality Test- ing’ program through BTNEP, and the NSF/AGI Earth Science Middle School Teacher Leader- ship Academy in Texas and presented at the NSTA confer- ence in New Orleans.”

SOUTHWESTERN SECTION
CRA Y ST AL T A L Y E
Crystal Talley
Code Academy
Alternative School, Seneca, SC
Crystal Talley, a former research biologist with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources who teaches that students learn best by conducting hands-on research of their own design. Upon joining the staff at an alterna- tive school, she realized that her at-risk 9th-12th grade students needed a learning environment tailored to their needs. She made it a priority to more learning as before the four walls of the classroom where they had already experienced much defeat. She began taking them to state parks in upstate South Caroli- na to learn about natural, geo- graphical, biological, and cul- tural features, bringing core curriculum subjects together into the classroom envi- ronment. The result? Over the past three years being out- doors for any reason was not new to her students. She was able to teach the content but to help them understand it and to impart to their children how they will use it once they finish with their education.” Some of those students, after finishing the Palooza Search program at the National Radio Astronomy Observa- tory in Green Bank, West Vir- ginia, now search for undis- covered pulsars using GDR data. Others, using grant fund- ing she secured, have built a radio telescope array and monitored solar flares using a Sudden Ionospheric Disturb- ance Detection Monitor. Actively involved in statewide assessment, devel- oping a pacing guide, and writing an Earth Science Review Book for the Virgin- ia Department of Education, Dorothy is part of a group working on founding the Virginia Earth Science Teachers Association.

WEST VIRGINIA
RICK SHARPE
Huntington High School, Huntington, WV
A 28-year teaching veteran, Rick Sharpe wrote curricu- lum for the Gold-Spill Project (a model which serves as a state mod- el, was awarded grant funding to engage students in study- ing the local watershed, and serves as a member of Hun- tington High School’s teach- er leadership. He incorporat- ed podcasting in his instruc- tion before it was popular and in 2012 took a team of stu- dents to the White House Sci- ence Fair. He has participat- ed in other teacher profes- sional development programs, including West Virginia Global Learning and Other to Benefit the Environment Pro- gram (with NASA JPL Facili- ty Educator Resource Center), Marshall University and Carnegi- e Mellon’s Giant’s Gap Project, Glenville State College’s Jason Project, and Health Technology Academy.

CASSANDRA STRICKLAND
Columbia Basin College, Pasco, WA
Grant of $750 to purchase rock and mineral specimens with which to teach a series of science classes for Kasual Valley Homeschoolers (ages 5-15).

THE DOROTHY LALDONE STOUT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANTS
Dorothy Laldone Stout Professional Development Grants are presented for NAGT in memory of Dottie Stout, a gifted geoscience educator, who taught at Cypress College, El Camino College, Long Beach City College, and Cali- fornia State University, Full-erton, and served as the first female president of NAGT. The grants honor her out- standing work and dedication to Earth science education.

CARI GOMES
Palomar Community College, San Marcos, CA
Grant of $750 for chemicals, glassware, glasses, pH tester, GPS and sieves to aid students in studying lagoons of San Diego Bay.

JAMES JOHNSON
Children’s Center for Treatment and Education, Custer, PA
Grant of $750 to help appli- cant complete A2T program at Astrobiology Laborato- ry in Hawaii.

Cynthia Talley—Vanagas

South Carolina State Fair, Columbia

Talley

Vanagas

Edwards

Sharpe

Gomes

Johnson

Strickland

For more about these exceptional educators and how to nominate people for future OEST awards, see:

http://nagt.org/nagt/

programs/oest.html

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GEOLOGY TEACHERS
IN THE NEAR EAST—17