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National Science Teachers Association Selects Local Educator to Identify Resources Supporting the *Next Generation Science Standards*

Ypsilanti, MI—The National Science Teachers Association (NSTA), the largest professional organization in the world promoting excellence and innovation in science teaching and learning, has chosen Amy Flanagan Johnson, an Associate Professor at Eastern Michigan University, to serve on an expert team that will identify and vet high-quality resources to help teachers implement the *Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)*. Johnson is one of 55 educators who were selected out of 650 applicants to be an *NGSS@NSTA* Curator and help build a library of top-rated resources for teachers that support the new standards. Johnson will focus on resources related to chemical reactions for middle school students.

Released in April 2013, the *NGSS* are K–12 science standards that will give all students the skills and knowledge they need to be informed citizens, college ready, and prepared for careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Twenty-six states led the development of the *NGSS* and NSTA was a partner in the process, along with Achieve, Inc., the National Research Council (NRC) and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).

NSTA is playing a central role in helping states, schools, and teachers implement the *NGSS*. As part of this effort, NSTA is building an interactive website on the *NGSS* that will serve as a home base for science teachers. When completed, the site will feature the vetted resources identified by the curators, and also provide crowdsourcing capability to enable teachers to identify and share their own resources, interact and collaborate with colleagues, and locate tools to plan their instruction and ongoing professional learning. Although new resources and

capabilities are still being added, the site was launched in spring 2014 and is a valuable resource for teachers who will need to make significant changes in instruction based on the vision of the *NGSS*. All NSTA resources on the *NGSS* can be found online at www.nsta.org/ngss.

The curators attended an NSTA regional conference in Charlotte, N.C. in November 2013, where they received special training on evaluating *NGSS* resources. Afterwards, the curators participated in web seminars to further their understanding of the *NGSS* and how to assess instructional materials, identify and describe resources that address the goals within their topic, review the work of other curators, and participate in numerous discussions with one another and NSTA staff. They attended the NSTA National Conference in Boston in April 2014 and will also attend the NSTA National Conference in Chicago in March 2015 to further their work.

“The *NGSS* represents a real opportunity to significantly improve science education, but it will take the work of educators across the country to make the vision of *NGSS* a reality,” said Bill Badders, NSTA President. “I am thrilled that so many teachers were interested in being a part of this exciting effort. We’ve selected an expert group of educators who are perfectly suited to identify important and much-needed resources for their teacher colleagues.”

About NSTA

The Arlington, VA-based [National Science Teachers Association](http://www.nsta.org) (NSTA) is the largest professional organization in the world promoting excellence and innovation in science teaching and learning for all. NSTA’s current membership includes more than 55,000 science teachers, science supervisors, administrators, scientists, business and industry representatives, and others involved in science education.

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