



2012 Annual Report

Overview of the Organization

This report is a general overview of the activities of the Pennsylvania Earth Science Teachers Association (PAESTA) for 2012. More detailed reports on Membership, the eNewsletter News and Notes, and Website statistics are available in separate documents archived on the PAESTA website: <http://www.paesta.psu.edu/archives-annual-reports>

Notable accomplishments

Some of the important advancements made by officers and members of the PAESTA organization in 2012 include:

- Migration of the PAESTA website from WordPress to a Drupal server in March 2012. Drupal has allowed for functionality and interactivity on the PAESTA site.
- Made significant additions to the PAESTA website, including links to all past issues of News and Notes (the PAESTA eNewsletter), discussion forums, and curricular examples.
- Contacted by Little Blue Regional Action Group and provided additional resources to add to our Science in the News classroom example on Little Blue Coal Run Coal Ash Pond (<http://www.paesta.psu.edu/article/little-blue-run-coal-ash-pond>).
- Continued to expand the frequency of postings on PAESTA's social media sites Facebook and Twitter (@paesta), gained additional followers on both sites.
- Established PAESTA News and Notes as a monthly eNewsletter in May 2012.
- Established the PAESTAR (Pennsylvania Earth Science Teacher Achievement Recognition) in July 2012. This recognition is a monthly feature that appears in News and Notes and online.
- Added additional profiles to the Featured Member section of the website.
- Held the first PAESTA Annual Conference, held at Penn State Brandywine, in Media, PA. Friday evening, October 12, opened with a public viewing of the documentary *Switch: To A Smarter Energy Future*. Saturday, October 13, featured a keynote by Heather Houlton (AGI) on geoscience careers, a conference-wide curricular session, then three sessions each with three presentations for attendees to choose from, and a raffle. Forty-nine PAESTA members were in attendance.

- Presented the first PAESTA Award for Teaching Excellence to Bellefonte School District 6th grade general science teacher Heather Spotts.
- Established the PAESTA Teacher Advisory Committee and Teaching Resource Committee.
- Increased PAESTA membership with 110 new members in 2012, ending the year with a total of 240 members from six reported states.
- Kept PAESTA membership free in 2012 with continuing free membership into 2013.

Report submitted March 2013, completed by Laura Guertin