



2014 Annual Report

Overview of the Organization

This report is a general overview of the activities of the Pennsylvania Earth Science Teachers Association (PAESTA) for 2014. More detailed reports on Membership and the eNewsletters are available in separate documents archived on the PAESTA website: <http://www.paesta.psu.edu/archives-annual-reports>.

Notable accomplishments

Highlights of the important advancements made by officers and members of the PAESTA organization in 2014 are listed below.

Leadership

- PAESTA welcomed its second K-12 teacher, Kathy Tait, as PAESTA President-Elect in the June 2013 election.
- The organization presented the third PAESTA Award for Teaching Excellence to Northwest Middle School (Reading) science teacher Gerard Tyson.
- PAESTA held its 3rd Annual Conference October 4 at The Penn State Conference Center in State College, PA, with the theme “Earth’s Connected Systems.” Forty-three PAESTA members were in attendance.
- The organization continued the awarding of a monthly PAESTAR (Pennsylvania Earth Science Teacher Achievement Recognition).
- One oral presentation on PAESTA titled “Levels of Leadership for Teachers in Educator-Based Organizations: An Example from the Pennsylvania Earth Science Teachers Association” was given at the National Science Teachers Association Annual Conference (Boston, MA, April 6).

Connections

- PAESTA membership increased with 117 new members in 2014, ending the year with a total of 525 members from 24 states and 4 countries.
- PAESTA participated in the four NESTA Share-A-Thons at the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) Annual Conference in Boston, MA (April 4-5).

- A PAESTA information table was set up at The Franklin Institute Educators' Night Out (Philadelphia, October 8), PA STEMathon (Camp Hill, August 5-6), and the Pennsylvania Earth Science Teachers Association (PSTA) Annual Conference (State College, December 4-5).
- The organization was directly contacted by the following groups to share announcements on the PAESTA website and in the eNewsletters: Teachers for Global Classrooms, Progressive Educational Systems, NASA Space Place, NASA Cassini Outreach Program, Sustainable Energy Fund, The Franklin Institute, PA Bureau of State Parks.
- PAESTA continued to expand the frequency of postings on PAESTA's social media sites Facebook (221 likes) and Twitter (@paesta, 172 followers).
- PAESTA began discussions with NSTA to have a PAESTA strand of talks during the NSTA Regional Conference being held in Philadelphia in 2016, along with a half-day follow-on PAESTA Conference.

Organization Resources

- The organization continued with PAESTA News and Notes as a monthly eNewsletter and established the quarterly eNewsletter Elementary News and Notes.
- The organization kept PAESTA membership free since its establishment in 2011, with continuing free membership into 2015.

Report submitted by Laura Guertin