

## How Does NSTOY-PA Serve Our Schools?

- Teachers from across the Commonwealth meet at the annual Teacher of the Year Forum to share best practices, explore innovative ideas about teaching, and learn about statewide educational initiatives
- Teachers who have been recognized for their excellence in the classroom are available to share their expertise, both formally and informally, with teachers in your schools
- NSTOY-PA promotes what is good in our schools, and helps to strengthen teacher morale and build community support for education across the state

## How Does the Teacher of the Year Organization Benefit Teachers and Schools?

- Quality teachers make the difference in the classroom. Showcasing educator's achievements gives a better impression of education for the public.
- Showcasing our teachers in the National arena brings favorable attention to the Commonwealth.
- Promoting excellence in teaching exposes our public to the wonderful opportunities and experiences occurring in Public Schools.
- Recognizing excellence in our schools reflects upon the support given by our IU's, State and Community.

## History of NSTOY-PA

NSTOY-PA was chartered in September 1995 as the Pennsylvania affiliate of the National State Teachers of the Year organization. The PA group was the brainchild of Violet Geib, 1993 PA Teacher of the Year. After participating in the various events that involved the 1993 Teachers of the Year from throughout the nation and territories, Violet felt that a group of such outstanding teachers in our state was necessary. From its inception, NSTOY-PA has been involved in the planning and execution of an annual Teacher Forum that provides a platform for outstanding professional development and a backdrop for naming the incoming PA Teacher of the Year. In 1998, the Department of Education in PA enlisted the NSTOY-PA chapter as the primary manager of the Teacher of the Year program in PA. Working together with PDE, NSTOY-PA handles and processes every stage of the selection process, designing a sequential application track that combines professional data, addresses current trends and challenges, solicits feedback and evaluates actual teaching examples. Each stage offers opportunities for outstanding teachers to be recognized locally, with state wide recognition going to semi-finalists and twelve finalists. In addition to naming a new PA Teacher of the Year, NSTOY-PA is active in mentoring outstanding college education majors and serving as a resource for in-service programs across PA.



NSTOY-PA

Visit us online!

<http://www.nstoy.org/chapters/pa>

Nominate a Teacher for the 2011  
Pennsylvania Teacher  
of the Year

## Pennsylvania Teacher of the Year



### Mission Statement

*The National State Teachers of the Year-Pennsylvania Chapter is a non-profit service organization representing teachers. NSTOY-PA seeks to:*

- encourage quality education for each individual through quality teaching
- recognize the excellence and commitment of professional educators
- promote the image of education through public awareness
- stimulate the personal and professional growth of NSTOY-PA members

### Sponsored by:

*The National State Teachers of the Year  
Pennsylvania Chapter*

*And*

*The Pennsylvania Department of Education*

## Program Overview



We Celebrate Excellence  
in our Teachers !

The selection of a Pennsylvania Teacher of the Year focuses public attention on the excellence in teaching within the commonwealth.

By honoring an exemplary member of the profession, we are highlighting the contributions of thousands of dedicated educators.

The honor of being selected as the Pennsylvania Teacher of the Year carries with it great responsibilities. The public views the Teacher of the Year as the person who will work for the best interests of all Pennsylvania students. Teachers across the state view the Teacher of the Year as a role model to emulate. The education profession as a whole looks to the Teacher of the Year as a spokesperson for its best in education.

In addition, the Pennsylvania Teacher of the Year represents the state in the National Teacher of the Year competition each spring.

## Application and Selection Process

The Pennsylvania Teacher of the Year Program recognizes excellence in teaching by honoring public education K-12 teachers who have made outstanding academic contributions to Pennsylvania's school-aged children. Please honor an outstanding educator in your district or IU by nominating him or her for the 2011 Pennsylvania Teacher of the Year. Further information and the application can be found on the Pennsylvania Department of Education's website:

<http://www.pde.state.pa.us/k12/cwp/view.asp?a=228&Q=85578>

### **Synopsis of application components and time line:**

**August 15-December 31, 2009 - Nomination period for 2011 Pennsylvania Teacher of the Year:**

*Applicants reflect upon:*

- Personal educational history and professional development
- Professional philosophy and beliefs about teaching
- Current issues in public education, how the profession can be strengthened, and accountability

**February 2010 - Announcement of Semifinalists and completion of Part 2 of the application, which includes reflections on:**

- Factors that influenced decision to become a teacher
- Community involvement activities
- Personal message to the education profession

**April 2010 - Announcement of Finalists and completion of Part 3 of the application (video), comprised of three parts:**

- Introduction of self, district, and school classroom teaching episode that depicts the elements of Standards Aligned Systems (SAS)
- Professional message to prospective teachers

**June 2010 - Videos due**

## Outreach Programs

### **TEACH Outreach Program with State Universities**

- Encourage college students to pursue a teaching career, as well as increase the number of high quality new teachers that stay in the teaching profession.
- Communication between mentor and pre-service mentee maintained through email, telephone, site visits, & Mini Forums.
- Feedback provided to University Liaisons and College of Education Deans several times a semester.
- Teacher/mentor documents completion of TEACH program requirements over a two year period.

### **NSTOY-PA APPLE Award**

- Recognizes teachers outside of the NSTOY-PA organization who make a difference in the lives of their students, school district, and community.
- Recipients are also recognized in the NSTOY PA newsletter, and by letter to their principal and superintendent.

### **NSTOY-PA Members as Regional Ambassadors**

- NSTOY members can offer to provide professional development, speak at district in-services or IU courses.
- Mentor new teachers
- Become a collaborative colleague for teachers in corrective action schools.
- Speak at district or IU administrative meetings on exemplary teaching
- Quality teaching is 7 times more powerful than any other factor in the success of a child.
- Teaching Matters