



## Randolph College Science Festival's Regional Science Teaching Award

# 'SCIFEST STAR'

To honor a high school science teacher who has contributed significantly to the lives of their students and who exhibits excellence in the teaching of science. The award consists of a \$1500 stipend to the award recipient and an additional \$1000 unrestricted grant for the award winner's department. The prize is presented annually at the keynote presentation of the Randolph College Science Festival.

The Randolph College Science Festival will recognize three finalists including one awardee each year.

### Eligibility

The prize will be given to a full-time or part-time teacher currently at a public or private high school in the Region 2000 including only the counties of Amherst, Appomattox, Bedford, Campbell, Nelson, and the City of Lynchburg. The recipient will have been recognized as contributing substantially to the teaching of science at their high school, and providing inspirational guidance and encouragement of students in their classes and programs. High school teachers in one of the science fields listed below are eligible. If a science field is not listed, please contact us to have it approved. Nominations are active for two years, although they may be updated in the second year if you choose.

Astronomy • Biology • Chemistry • Earth Science • Environmental  
• Geology • Geoscience • Life Science • Physical Science • Physics

### Nomination and Selection Process

Nominations from anyone (administrators, colleagues, parents, students, or self-nominations) are encouraged.

**Deadline: Thursday, March 11, 2021**

### The nomination package should include:

- A letter of not more than 1000 words evaluating the qualifications of the nominee. Qualifications might address:
  - Impacts on students, department, school
  - Numbers of students served
  - Resources available, how those resources have been used, what resources have been sought outside of what is readily available
  - Engagement of students
  - Improvement in interest and/or enrollments in science
  - Engagement of traditionally underrepresented groups in science
  - Preparation of students for college or career
  - Involvement in science research
  - Professional development
  - Implementation of research-based teaching methods
  - Outreach

*Please note that it is not expected that any given nominee will have qualifications in each of these areas, but it is expected that the nominee has distinction in one or more of these areas.*

- A resume or CV from the nominee
- At least two, but no more than four letters of recommendation:
  - One may be the letter of qualifications if that is not submitted by the nominee, and may be counted as one of the following:
    - One could be from a student
    - One could be from an administrator
    - One could be from a colleague

Please note that it is best to submit recommendations with the complete nomination package, or request recommenders to email directly to [scifest@randolphcollege.edu](mailto:scifest@randolphcollege.edu), but only recommendations received by the nomination deadline will be considered.

- Up to five additional supporting documents are welcome, including but not limited to publications, articles about the nominee or the nominee's programs, resources the nominee has produced.

### Submission and Timeline

The complete nomination package should be submitted through our form submission at <http://bit.ly/scifestSTAR> by midnight on **Thursday, March 11, 2021**. Please contact us at [scifest@randolphcollege.edu](mailto:scifest@randolphcollege.edu) with any questions or problems with submission.

**Three finalists will be notified by Friday, March 19, 2021,** and should expect to be present at the award presentation.

All nominees, guests, and the public are encouraged to be present for the Science Teaching Award and Keynote presentation of the Randolph College Science Festival, 7:30 pm, Thursday, March 25, 2021. All nominees present will be recognized.

### Selection Committee

The Selection Committee will consist of a subcommittee of the Randolph College Science Festival Oversight Committee, Directed by Peter Sheldon. The subcommittee will make recommendations to the whole committee.