

# Toyota and NSTA Celebrate 20th Anniversary of Toyota TAPESTRY Program, Bringing Science Education to Thousands of Students Nationwide

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*Seventy-Nine Teachers to Receive Grants Totaling Nearly \$550,000*

Torrance, Calif. – March 10, 2010 – For the past 20 years, Toyota and NSTA have promoted science education in classrooms through the Toyota TAPESTRY Grants for Science Teachers Program, providing more than \$9.2 million in grants and touching more than 1,147 teams of teachers and tens of thousands of students nationwide. Toyota announced today nearly \$550,000 in grants will be awarded to 79 K-12 educators across the country as a part of the 2010 program. The winning programs will begin classroom implementation in June.

Sponsored by Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc. and administered by the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA), the Toyota TAPESTRY Program serves as the nation's largest science teacher grant program of its kind and awards funding for innovative science proposals submitted by educators in three areas: environmental science; physical science; and integrating literacy & science. Since the program's inception in 1990, educators from all 50 U.S. states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and the Mariana Islands have received Toyota TAPESTRY Grants.

“From working to develop an alternative to fossil fuels, to building an electric car from the ground up, the accomplishments of the Toyota TAPESTRY recipients are truly inspiring,” said Michael Rouse, Toyota's vice president of philanthropy and community affairs. “Toyota is honored to be celebrating two decades of recognizing excellent teachers and the thousands of students who have formed passionate connections with science through the TAPESTRY program.”

As a result of the Toyota TAPESTRY program, numerous educators have been gone on to win prestigious awards, including the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science and Mathematics, NSTA Distinguished Teaching Award and the Einstein Fellowship Award. Additionally, teachers have had the opportunity to expand their science-based projects beyond their classrooms, and impact their communities and even state legislature. Frequently, this includes garnering substantial additional funding.

Through two Toyota TAPESTRY grants over five years, Iowa middle school teacher Hector Ibarra and his students helped change Iowa legislation. “My TAPESTRY awards allowed my students to work outside of the classroom, where they partnered with community members and legislators to craft bills that later became laws,” said Ibarra. “These laws banned oil filters from being disposed in landfills, required recycling of mercury thermostats, and banned the manufacturing of mercury thermostats in Iowa. As a result, the Toyota TAPESTRY grants not only impacted my students, but will also continue to affect future generations because of the environmental progress accomplished.”

This year, 79 teachers in grades K-12 from across the United States were selected from more than 500 applications. Judges, accomplished in various areas of science, select projects that stand out in creativity, risk-taking and originality. Of the \$550,000 granted this year, 50 teachers receive large grants of up to \$10,000 each, and 29 receive mini grants of up to \$2,500 each. To follow this year's TAPESTRY recipients' projects as they progress through the year, please visit [www.toyotapestry.com](http://www.toyotapestry.com).

“For the past 20 years NSTA has partnered with Toyota to deliver this inspiring, far-reaching program that gives teachers the tools they need to introduce real-world science into their classrooms,” said Francis Eberle, Executive Director for NSTA. “It is a wonderfully rewarding partnership and NSTA is excited to celebrate 20 years of providing classroom resources and inspiration for countless educators and students with the Toyota TAPESTRY program.”

Toyota TAPESTRY is open to elementary, middle and high school science teachers in the United States and its territories, including the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. Teachers may apply individually or in teams. Applications are submitted online and are due in January each year. For more information about Toyota TAPESTRY grants, visit [www.nsta.org/programs/tapestry](http://www.nsta.org/programs/tapestry) or call (800) 807-9852.

### **About Toyota**

Toyota (NYSE: TMS) established operations in the United States in 1957 and currently operates 10 manufacturing plants. Toyota directly employs nearly 34,000 in the U.S. and its investment here is currently valued at more than \$18 billion, including sales and manufacturing operations, research and development, financial services and design.

Toyota is committed to being a good corporate citizen in the communities where it does business and believes in supporting programs with long-term sustainable results. Toyota supports numerous organizations across the country, focusing on education, the environment and safety. Since 1991, Toyota has contributed more than \$500 million to philanthropic programs in the U.S.

For more information on Toyota’s commitment to improving communities nationwide, visit <http://www.toyota.com/about/philanthropy>.

### **About National Science Teachers Association**

The Arlington, VA-based National Science Teachers Association 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 60,000 science teachers, science supervisors, administrators, scientists, business and industry representatives, and others involved in science education.

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