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**National Science Teachers Association Selects Brookline Educator
to Identify Resources Supporting the *Next Generation Science Standards***

Brookline, MA—The National Science Teachers Association (NSTA), the largest professional organization in the world promoting excellence and innovation in science teaching and learning, has chosen Janet MacNeil, K-8 Science Coordinator, Public Schools of Brookline to serve on an expert team that will identify and vet high-quality resources to help teachers implement the *Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)*. Janet is one of 55 educators who were selected out of 650 applicants to be an *NGSS@NSTA* Curator and help build a library of top-rated resources for teachers that support the new standards. Janet will focus on resources related to Ecosystems.

Released in April, the *NGSS* are new K–12 science standards that will give all students the skills and knowledge they need to be informed citizens, college ready, and prepared for careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Twenty-six states led the development of the *NGSS* and NSTA was a partner in the process, along with Achieve, Inc., the National Research Council (NRC) and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).

NSTA is playing a central role in helping states, schools, and teachers implement the *NGSS*. As part of this effort, NSTA is building an interactive website on the *NGSS* that will serve as a home base for science teachers. The site will feature the vetted resources identified by the newly named curators, and also provide crowdsourcing capability to enable teachers to identify

and share their own resources, interact and collaborate with colleagues, and locate tools to plan their instruction and ongoing professional learning. The site, expected to be launched in spring 2014, will be a valuable resource for teachers who will need to make significant changes in instruction based on the vision of the *NGSS*. All NSTA resources on the *NGSS* can be found online at www.nsta.org/ngss.

In her role as K-8 Science Coordinator in Brookline, Janet is responsible for planning, developing and supervising science curriculum, providing professional learning opportunities for teachers, and providing science supplies/teaching materials. She is currently working with a team of teachers to revise the entire K-8 Science curriculum to incorporate the use of hands-on inquiry instruction, science practices, nature of science (who are scientists and what do they do?), science notebooks, outdoor learning, and integration with other areas of the curriculum (such as science talk, science writing, and science reading to support Science as well as English Language Arts).

Janet is also developing online courses and is integrating the use of technology into Science classrooms to support teachers and students. As a curious lifelong learner herself, Janet is passionate about making Science teaching and learning engaging for teachers and students alike. She has a B.S. in Earth Science and a Masters in Environmental Pollution Control from Penn State University. Janet has been a member of the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Science and Technology/Engineering Curriculum Framework Review Panel since 2009 and is also part of the DESE Grade 5 Assessment Development Committee for the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS).

The curators recently attended an NSTA regional conference in Charlotte, N.C., where they received special training on evaluating *NGSS* resources. In the coming months, the curators will participate in web seminars to further their understanding of the *NGSS* and how to assess instructional materials, identify and describe resources that address the goals within their topic, review the work of other curators, and participate in numerous discussions with one another and NSTA staff. They also will attend the NSTA National Conference in Boston in April. Each curator will receive a free NSTA membership for their year-long commitment to the program.

“The *NGSS* represents a real opportunity to significantly improve science education, but it will take the work of educators across the country to make the vision of *NGSS* a reality,” said Bill Badders, NSTA President. “I am thrilled that so many teachers were interested in being a

part of this exciting effort. We've selected an expert group of educators who are perfectly suited to identify important and much-needed resources for their teacher colleagues.”

About NSTA

The Arlington, VA-based [National Science Teachers Association](#) (NSTA) 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 55,000 science teachers, science supervisors, administrators, scientists, business and industry representatives, and others involved in science education.

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