

## February Ejournal

Greeting MSTA members. If your dues have expired, please remit them to LeAnne Yenny 3880 Equestrian Lane, Bozeman, MT 59718. A membership form is available online at [montanascience.org](http://montanascience.org)

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### **2005 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching**

**Do you know a great 7-12 math or science teacher? Nominate him or her to receive Presidential Recognition!** - We're looking for outstanding 7-12 math or science teachers for the 2005 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. The awards are sponsored by the White House and administered by the National Science Foundation.

**Every year up to 108 National Awardees receive** a special citation signed by the President of the United States, a \$10,000 award, and a paid trip for two to Washington, DC to attend a week-long series of recognition events.

The program is now accepting nominations for the nation's highest honor for mathematics and science teachers. **Anyone** can nominate a 7-12 teacher. Teachers should submit completed application materials by May 2, 2005. **For more information, including nomination and application forms, please visit [www.PAEMST.org](http://www.PAEMST.org)**

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February 26: Science Extravaganza & Astro-Fair at Museum of the Rockies . Two outstanding presentations will happen that morning. One is centered around high motivation demonstrations involving energy "The Magic of Energy." Whether or not you are a kindergarten or high school teacher, you'll take something back to school (hand-outs included) to use from this sectional. The other sectional is a national presenter from the upcoming museum exhibit "Cosmos." Find out how to lead your students in exploration of where we are in space and time, find out the latest on unsolved cosmic mysteries like black holes and extraterrestrial life, and discover what it's like to be an astronomer uncovering clues from the cosmos hidden in the faint light of distant galaxies. This is an excellent opportunity to learn some new strategies and information on the universe. There are continuing education credits available for this and if you stay during the afternoon session on the Astro-Fair, there are even more credits. Call the

museum at 994-6618 for free reservations to this event. This event is sponsored by the Museum of the Rockies and the Montana Energy Education Council.

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### Expanding your Horizons in Science and Mathematics

This annual event is for students in grades 6, 7 & 8. Students gather for a day to attend motivating hands-on workshops in mathematics and science activities. Many of these workshops are held in actual research labs and topics range from forensics to math-magic to playground physics. Many times students / parents will attend these functions if they just know about them, and sometimes your assessment system even allows for some extra credit if students attend and bring back either written or oral information on what workshops they attended, and what they thought was valuable. To request brochures or obtain a nice classroom wall poster phone (406) 994-6683 or email: outreach@montana.edu

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### National Middle School Science Bowl

The National Middle School Science Bowl is a tournament-style academic competition combined with a hydrogen fuel cell car race that challenges and recognizes students' knowledge of science, mathematics and engineering. It is sponsored by the Secretary of Energy and Deaconess Billings Clinic Research Center. The regional competition will be held on March 18 & 19 at MSU-Billings and it is limited to the first eight teams that sign up. The deadline is Feb. 11 so any 6 ñ 8th grade teams should sign up prior to that time. For more information, please view [www.scied.science.doe.gov](http://www.scied.science.doe.gov) or contact Rick at [rmjones@montana.edu](mailto:rmjones@montana.edu) (690-3927)

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### MACD Offers Two \$500 Scholarships

The Montana Association of Conservation Districts is offering two \$500 scholarships for students who wish to pursue educational opportunities in natural resource management.

"Natural resources are what makes Montana the last best place, and this is our way of encouraging young people to get involved in properly managing those resources," said Sarah Carlson, MACD executive director.

Two scholarships are offered: One for high school seniors planning to attend college and one for college students who have completed at least two semesters at any of the state's accredited post-secondary educational institutions. Eligibility requirements for both include Montana residency, a minimum grade point average of 2.5, and enrollment (or, for high school applicants, plans to enroll) in a course of study that allows students to explore natural resource issues. Such courses of study include agriculture, agribusiness, animal science, environmental sciences, forestry, land resource sciences, plant sciences, range sciences, etc.

The scholarship application deadline is February 28, 2005. All applications must be postmarked by that date and sent to MACD Scholarship

Committee, 501 N. Sanders/Suite 2, Helena MT 59601.

Scholarship applications forms are available at your local conservation district office, the MACD office or by sending an e-mail to [mail@macdnet.org](mailto:mail@macdnet.org) with "scholarship application request" in the subject line. Applications may also be downloaded in Microsoft Word or PDF formats from the MACD web site at <http://macdnet.org/education.htm>

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**Calling All Student Inventors! Enter the Craftsman/NSTA Young Inventors Awards Program and Win Up to \$10,000**

A wheelbarrow that doesn't tip over, a lawn chair with adjustable legs, and a wheelchair that reclines are a few of the award-winning inventions created by students in the Craftsman/NSTA Young Inventors Awards Program. The Craftsman program challenges students to use their creativity and imagination along with science, technology, and mechanical ability to invent or modify a tool. Open to all students in grades 2-8, the top winners can receive up to \$10,000 in savings bonds. But, students can't win if they don't enter. Deadline for entries in the 2005 program is March 15. Get all the details at <http://www.nsta.org/programs/craftsman>. To download a teacher guide and to get tips on how to get your students involved, go to <http://www.nsta.org/programs/craftsman/forteachers.htm>. Every student who submits a completed entry will receive a personalized certificate and a small gift.

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*Igniting Creative Energy Challenge\**. An interdisciplinary competition that asks students to use their creative talents to promote awareness regarding environmental issues. It is free to teachers and students. If you have any questions, visit [www.ignitingcreativeenergy.org](http://www.ignitingcreativeenergy.org)

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Research Experience Teachers Positions at Montana State University, Bozeman.

The physics department at Montana State University, Bozeman, has two positions for the summer of 2005 in our National Science Foundation Research Experience Teachers Program. This position is available to a K-12 or community college teacher with an interest in conducting research in condensed matter and materials physics during an eight to ten week summer period. The participant will be matched with a group conducting research in areas such as: optical materials for data storage and other applications, magnetism, superconductivity, surface physics, fuel cells, nanoscale physics, ferroelectrics, or sample preparation and characterization. A project that can be carried over into the classroom is the main goal, so that students can profit from the experience. Research activities in the department can be viewed at [www.physics.montana.edu](http://www.physics.montana.edu). A stipend will be provided that is close to the participant's monthly salary within our budgetary restrictions. Some travel and housing funds are also available. Interested individuals should submit a letter and resume to: Prof. John Neumeier, Physics Department, PO Box 173840, Bozeman, MT 59717. Submissions

via email are also acceptable  
(neumeier@physics.montana.edu). The applicant should mention  
the area(s) of research that would interest them.