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**FLAGSTAFF TEACHER TO RECEIVE TOYOTA TAPESTRY GRANT**  
**TO EXPAND SCIENCE EDUCATION**  
**SCIENCE PROJECT AIMS TO HELP STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT**  
**IMPACT OF WATER QUALITY ON NATIVE PLANTS**

Torrance, Calif. – August 17, 2011 – Toyota and the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) awarded Flagstaff Arts & Leadership Academy teacher Emily Musta a Toyota TAPESTRY grant for excellence and innovation in science education. Musta was one of 50 teachers selected to receive the grant this year, which marks the 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary of Toyota's and NSTA's efforts to support educators who are making a difference by demonstrating distinction and creativity in science education through the [Toyota TAPESTRY Grants for Science Teachers Program](#).

Musta's proposal calls for students to study the different effects of tap water versus reclaimed water on the growth of native plants. Students will be responsible for collecting native seeds, growing and monitoring plants and creating a living roof on the school's campus to highlight native species. Overall, Musta aims to lead students through the process of creating a scientific investigation to answer a question, while collecting data that will help inform local decisions about the use of reclaimed water in irrigation. The project is scheduled to begin in September, and Musta expects it to be in full swing in late spring 2012.

Over the course of 21-year history of the TAPESTRY program, Toyota has provided more than \$10 million in grants and touched tens of thousands of students nationwide. Today, in light of the current crisis facing the nation's schools, the Toyota TAPESTRY program helps to ensure there are engaging science education programs available to get students excited about science.

As a result of the Toyota TAPESTRY program, numerous educators have gone on to win prestigious awards, including the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science and Mathematics, the 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 legislatures. Frequently, this includes garnering substantial additional funding for the teacher's program and school.

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## **Program Overview**

Sponsored by Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc. and administered by the 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 environmental 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.

Judges, accomplished in various areas of science education, select projects that stand out in creativity, risk-taking and originality. This year, 50 teachers have been selected to receive grants of \$10,000 each, totaling \$500,000. This year's projects range from converting cooking oil into biodiesel fuel to studying the heat island effect to using fungus to clean petroleum spills.

The Toyota TAPESTRY program is open to elementary, middle and high school science teachers in the United States and its territories. Teachers may apply individually or in teams online. For more information about Toyota TAPESTRY grants, visit [www.nsta.org/pd/tapestry](http://www.nsta.org/pd/tapestry).

## **Quotes**

"The dedication and work of the Toyota TAPESTRY recipients are truly inspiring. These science teachers are helping our youth build an interest with how science affects our life every day to hopefully prepare them to be the science leaders of tomorrow."

Michael Rouse, vice president of philanthropy, Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc.

"For more than 20 years, NSTA has partnered with Toyota to deliver an invaluable resource for and investment in our nation's science teachers. Through the Toyota TAPESTRY Grants for Science Teachers program, educators are given the support needed to carry out their innovative projects so that they can in turn help to cultivate their students' interest in science. We applaud the winners of the 2011 TAPESTRY program for their hard work, creative ideas, and dedication to their students' education."

Dr. Francis Eberle, executive director for NSTA

## **About Toyota**

Toyota (NYSE: TM) established operations in the United States in 1957 and currently operates 10 manufacturing plants, including one under construction. Toyota directly employs nearly 30,000 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/community>.

**About National Science Teachers Association**

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 approximately 60,000 science teachers, science supervisors, administrators, scientists, business and industry representatives, and others involved in science education.

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