



**HSU** EDUCATIONAL  
**FOUNDATION**

**Teaching Excellence Awards in Mathematics and Science  
(TEAMS)**

Recognizing and Rewarding Excellence in Teaching

2024 Edition

## 2024 PROGRAM INFORMATION

The HSU Educational Foundation (“HEF”) was created to enhance a greater public understanding of the role of science and technology in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and prepare students for careers of global demand. The HEF seeks to support and encourage men and women engaged in the education of our young people specifically in the areas of science and mathematics at the high school level.

Each year, HEF will recognize outstanding 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade mathematics and science (including computer science) teachers by bestowing upon them HSU Educational Foundation Teaching Excellence Award in Mathematics and Science (“HEF TEAMS”). Awards will be given to teachers in Okaloosa County high schools (Crestview High School, Laurel Hill School, Baker School, Fort Walton Beach High School, Choctawhatchee High School, CHOICE, Niceville High School, Collegiate). The award will consist of a \$5,000 prize to deserving teachers of math or science (computer science included). Four award winners will be chosen annually. The program will also include additional Sponsored Merit Prizes. The HEF TEAMS applications will be reviewed and scored by a selection committee made up of representatives from regional Chambers of Commerce on behalf of the HEF.

a. **Nomination and Application**

Anyone – principals, teachers, parents, students, or members of the general public – may nominate exceptional mathematics and science (including computer science) teachers by completing the nomination submission available online via the following link on HSU Educational Foundation website:

[www.hsu-foundation.org](http://www.hsu-foundation.org)

Nomination forms may be emailed to [support@hsu-foundation.org](mailto:support@hsu-foundation.org) or an online nomination may be submitted <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2024HSTEAMS1>. If an individual knows of more than one teacher worthy of this reward, more than one nomination may be submitted. Nominated teachers will receive an invitation to begin the application process. Nominations must be received no later than **May 1, 2024**, and applications must be submitted no later than 12 pm on **June 3, 2024**.

b. **Eligibility**

An applicant must:

- Teach mathematics or science (including computer science) at the 9-12 grade level at Crestview High School, Laurel Hill School, Baker School, Fort Walton Beach High School, Choctawhatchee High School, CHOICE, Niceville High School, Collegiate. Hold at least a bachelor’s degree from an accredited institution.
- Be a full-time employee of the school or Okaloosa County School District as determined by state and district policies and teach grade 9-12 students at least 50% of the time.
- Be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident.

**Teaching Excellence Awards in Mathematics and Science (TEAMS)**

- Not have received the HEF TEAMS in the year immediately preceding the current application period.

c. **Review Criteria**

After eligibility is confirmed and technical specifications are met, each application will be evaluated using the following *Five Dimensions of Outstanding Teaching*:

- Dimension One: Mastery of mathematics or science (including computer science) content knowledge appropriate for the grade level taught.
- Dimension Two: Use of instructional methods and strategies that are appropriate for the students in the classroom and that support student learning.
- Dimension Three: Effective use of student assessments to evaluate, monitor, improve and inspire student learning.
- Dimension Four: Reflective practice and life-long learning to improve teaching and student learning.
- Dimension Five: Leadership in education outside the classroom.

d. **Review Process**

For PHASE 1 of the review process, the Selection Panel will convene a volunteer selection committee consisting of local business leaders. To ensure consistency, the selection committee will score each application using a formulated review criterion and a scoring guide. The committee will select top-tier applicants to participate in PHASE 2.

During PHASE 2 of the review process, the applicant may be interviewed by a panel of selection committee members. The interview will focus on submitted application materials and will give the applicant the opportunity to expand on their respective strengths and qualifications.

e. **Recognition**

HEF TEAMS winners are announced and honored at the end of the school year of the application. Each awardee receives a certificate signed by Paul S. Hsu, Ph.D., and a \$5,000.00 award from the HEF. Additional awards will also be given during the presentation. Awardees and their guests will be honored at an upcoming Chamber After Hours event and HSU Innovation Institute Grand Opening.

**Questions Regarding HEF TEAMS Program Guidelines or Submission Details should be directed to the Hsu Foundation or by email to: [support@hsu-foundation.com](mailto:support@hsu-foundation.com)**

## APPLICATION OUTLINE/SUBMISSION CHECKLIST

The application is designed to allow the applicant to provide evidence of deep content knowledge and exemplary skills as an educator that result in improved student learning. There is no single correct or incorrect way to teach and, therefore, this award is not limited to teachers with a specific teaching style, method, or philosophy. Rather, this award recognizes those teachers who develop and implement a high-quality instructional program that is informed by content knowledge, is appropriate for the students they teach and enhances student learning. The HEF TEAMS application must consist of at least two components: Administrative and Narrative. The Narrative component may be submitted in written or video format.

a. **Administrative Component**

- **Teacher Application Cover**
- **Letters of Recommendation** – Applicants may include up to three signed and dated letters of recommendation.
- **Resume or Curriculum Vitae**

b. **Narrative Component**

The narrative component consists of a written or video response and supplemental materials. The applicant must select a science or mathematics topic or concept that will be used in the written response to the Five Dimensions of Outstanding Teaching. The TEAMS selection committee seeks to see an evolving emphasis demonstrated throughout the application shifting from telling how standards are currently being taught to how the approach can be improved and enriched.

- **Written Response** (5-page limit)
- **OPTIONAL Video Response** (15-minute limit): Applicant may submit a video to accompany their application in lieu of a written narrative component. A video narrative must cover the same prompts as the written. Video must be in digital format, and like the supplemental materials, these files will NOT be returned to the applicant.
- **Supplemental Materials** - Supplemental materials provide supporting evidence for the narrative responses to the Five Dimensions of Outstanding Teaching. The application may include supplemental materials such as lesson plans, samples of student work, assessment items or publications (your own, or those you wish to cite in support of your written narrative).
- **RESPONSE OR SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL MAY NOT CONTAIN ANY IDENTIFYING INFORMATION WHATSOEVER FOR ANY STUDENT, PAST OR**

**PRESENT. IF IT IS DETERMINED THAT STUDENT-IDENTIFYING INFORMATION IS INCLUDED IN THE APPLICATION PACKAGE, THE COMMITTEE WILL DISQUALIFY THE APPLICANT.**

**The Five Dimensions of Outstanding Teaching – Narrative Prompts**

- **Dimension One: Mastery of mathematics or science content appropriate for the grade level taught.**
  - Discuss the mathematical or scientific ideas that are fundamental to understanding the chosen topic.
  - Explain why this topic or concept is important for students to learn and how it relates to more complex concepts that students will encounter in subsequent lessons, grades, or courses.
  - Discuss the misconceptions or misunderstandings that students typically have with regard to this topic or concept.
  
- **Dimension Two: Use of instructional methods and strategies that are appropriate for the students in the class and that support student learning.**
  - Describe the instructional approaches you use to help students understand the topic.
  - Explain how you identify and build on students' prior knowledge, and how this knowledge is in your general teaching strategies.
  - Discuss the instructional strategies and techniques you use to meet the learning needs of all students, challenging those with stronger knowledge while ensuring learning for less accomplished students.
  
- **Dimension Three: Effective use of student assessments to evaluate, monitor, and improve student learning.**
  - Describe how you assessed student learning and achievement for the topic, and how you use what you learn from the assessment to improve your teaching.
  - Discuss other specific ways that you routinely assess and guide student learning. You may include examples of formative or summative techniques, including student presentations, projects, quizzes, unit exams, or other methods.

**Teaching Excellence Awards in Mathematics and Science (TEAMS)**

- Provide evidence of your teaching effectiveness as measured by student achievement on school, district or state assessments, or other external indicators of student learning or achievement.
  
- **Dimension Four: Reflective practice and life-long learning to improve teaching and student learning.**
  - Discuss the more successful and less successful aspects of the instructional activities you previously described and describe what you might do differently to improve student learning.
  - Describe how reflection on your teaching practices helps you improve your classroom instruction.
  - You may provide examples of lessons or activities you revised based on this reflection.
  
- **Dimension Five: Leadership in education outside the classroom.**
  - Describe how you have supported other teachers, student teachers or interns through activities such as induction, mentoring, leading professional development activities, or co-teaching.
  - Describe how you contribute to educational excellence at the school, district, state or national level.

Upon submission, the HEF TEAMS application package and its contents will become the property of the *HEF TEAMS Committee of HSU Educational Foundation. The application package and its contents will be used solely by the HEF TEAMS COMMITTEE for the sole purpose of awarding HEF TEAMS and will be maintained as required by law by the HEF TEAMS Committee at the HSU Educational Foundation.*

*If possible, please submit applications digitally to the following email address:  
support@hsu-foundation.org*

*Applications may also be directed to:*

HSU Educational Foundation  
HEF TEAMS Committee  
70 Ready Avenue  
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548



## Teaching Excellence Awards in Math and Science (TEAMS)

### Application Cover

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Alt. E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Degrees from Accredited institution (Degree/ Major/Institution/Year Awarded): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Number of Academic/School Years of Teaching Experience in Mathematics/Science at the K-12 level prior to the start of the 2022-2023 Academic Year: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Describe current teaching assignment, including grade level(s), courses taught, and weekly teaching scheduled: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In the space provided, indicate the topic or concept discussed in the narrative portion of your application: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_