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**1. Congratulations to the 2007 ExploraVision Region 4 High School Division  
Regional Winner: Edison Academy, Westerville, OH**

<http://www.exploravision.org/past-winners/regional-winners-2007.php>

With their entry, "Nano Mist", the 2007 ExploraVision team from Edison Academy becomes one of 24 teams across the country to win a Regional award, which consists of a notebook computer for their school (to be used by the team to create the website portion for the finals in the competition) and a special gift for each student, teacher and mentor. More to the point, they are also still in the running for the top prizes for their division, which includes a trip to Washington, D.C. in June to attend the awards ceremony, and US Savings Bond for each student on the team, which will be worth \$5,000 (runner-up) or \$10,000 (First place winner)! Stay tuned for more announcements about this NSTA/Toshiba competition, and plan to enter some teams from your school next year! Entry categories include K-3, 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12.

**2. K-12: 'Leadership on the Edge'**

<http://www.2041.com/expeditions/IAE.html>

Polar explorer Robert Swan is leading his fifth international group to the South Pole to launch a Web project that aims to educate children about life on Antarctica and the effects of global warming.

The team consists of up and coming corporate leaders, entrepreneurs in the field of renewable energy, journalists, teachers and deserving students.

They will experience firsthand the importance of preserving Antarctica and protecting the environment for future generations. The knowledge they take back to their businesses, schools and communities will be crucial in expanding local and global awareness on sustainable living and the environment.

Swan is building an education station known as "EBase" from recyclable materials on a Russian base on King George Island. "EBase" measures 40 feet by 10 feet, is unmanned, and runs on

wind and solar power. A camera on the roof will beam real-time images to an online site, which will also feature educational material for teachers.

### **3. K-12: Geosphere: State County Maps, National Atlas**

<http://nationalatlas.gov/printable/reference.html#slist>

What do you mean you haven't heard about our printable maps? Hundreds of thousands of these page-sized maps are downloaded each month for use at home, in schools, and at the office. One of the most popular series of printable maps has included maps for each state that show county boundaries. Still others have asked for "just a little more" information on these state-by-state county maps. So you will find a second set of them here. These are just as accurate and useful as the original county maps, but now you can include the locations of selected towns and cities as well as large water bodies.

### **4. K-12: The Ohio Mathematics and Science Coalition's got links!**

<http://www.ohiomsc.org/OMSC/Weblinks.html>

OMSC is proud to have NASA CORE (Central Operation of Resources for Educators) as one of their state advocacy network members. New information about NASA CORE is listed in the "Resources for Educators" section of the OMSC web site: just look for the "New" icon, click the NASA CORE link for Educator Resources, and you'll be on your way. Take advantage of your tax dollars to equip your classroom with free resources, posters, CD Roms, and use some of the great lesson plans and investigations that are available as well.

NASA CORE has just issued a "Best of NASA CORE" Catalog. This catalog summarizes NASA's most-requested materials for teaching earth and space science in one easy-to-read publication. They have also issued a number of new educational materials for shuttle mission STS-118, scheduled for a trip to the International Space Station in late June. You will find more information about the mission, the Endeavour vehicle, and Barbara Morgan, the next teacher in space, located at [http://www.nasa.gov/mission\\_pages/shuttle/shuttlemissions/sts118/index.html](http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/shuttle/shuttlemissions/sts118/index.html)

One of the more interesting notes about NASA CORE is the unique cooperative education partnership that they have made available to high school students. NASA CORE is located at the Lorain County Joint Vocational School, in Oberlin, Ohio. The program is managed by NASA staff who oversee the development of their LCJVS co-op students in such areas as CD and DVD production, lesson publication, catalog design and production, newsletter writing and publishing, warehousing, inventory, order fulfillment and world-wide shipping.

### **5. K-12: "Living in a Material World" \$500 grants for Teachers**

[http://www.asminternational.org/content/Foundation/LivingintheMaterialWorld/Living\\_Material\\_World.htm](http://www.asminternational.org/content/Foundation/LivingintheMaterialWorld/Living_Material_World.htm)

Here's a fun and rewarding way to exercise your creativity as a teacher – and be recognized for it! The ASM International Foundation's mission is to excite young people worldwide in materials careers. Members of ASM International visit schools and frequently observe that students are fascinated by materials, but rarely have an opportunity to learn anything about them. To help teachers like you bring the "real world" of materials science into your classroom, the

ASM International Foundation is awarding 10 grants of \$500 each to teachers in grades K-12. The purpose of these grants is to enhance awareness of materials science and the role of materials scientists in society.

ASM International has local chapter across North America. Members are willing to work closely with local teachers to develop and implement these lessons. View a list of current local ASM professional chapters to find some in your area.

### **How To Apply**

Please submit a two-page proposal describing a curriculum based hands-on project, involving students' observation, communication, and mathematics and science skills while enhancing their awareness of the materials around them. A one-page summary report will be required of winning proposals. Feel free to contact local ASM members, through their local chapters for assistance. Original, imaginative projects other teachers will want to emulate are encouraged. A good introductory site is [www.crc4mse.org](http://www.crc4mse.org).

Proposals may be submitted electronically by May 25 of each year to [jdeather@asminternational.org](mailto:jdeather@asminternational.org), or by mail to: ASM International Foundation, Attn: "Living In a Material World" Program, Materials Park, OH 44073-0002.

Be sure to include your school name and address, your name, grade(s) taught, and the school telephone number. Awards will be made in August.

### **6. Gr 7-12: Hydrosphere: GOOGLE Earth Stream Flow KML Files**

<http://earth.google.com/>

(Suggested by Eric Fermann Eastchester High School Eastchester, NY)

Display real-time stream gauges in Google Earth, which is an interactive, 3D viewer that seamlessly zooms from a global scale down to less than a meter in many urban areas. To display USGS stream gages, download one of the following files and open it in Google Earth: Stream gauges, colored by streamflow condition (390K)

This is a KML file of a USGS real-time stream gage map. Each gage is colored in terms of flow conditions. This file is re-created every hour. Once it is opened in Google Earth, the contents will be refreshed in every hour.

Available at: <http://water.usgs.gov/waterwatch/kmls/real.kmz>

### **7. Gr 7-12: A site for animations of cell activities (and other science concepts)**

<http://faculty.plattsburgh.edu/donald.slish/animations.html>

You will want to check out the possibilities of Flash as a teaching tool by reviewing (and using) these Animations and Interactive Tutorial, produced by Dr. Donald F. Slish (Associate Professor, Plattsburgh State University of New York). He says, "My lab is investigating the molecular mechanisms involved in the contraction of vascular smooth muscle. Vascular smooth muscle is

the tissue that controls the diameter of arteries and veins. This controls the blood pressure of an organism and the blood flow to particular organs and tissues.” Google Dr. Sligh to learn more about that, but do check out the web site! The animations are listed in reverse historic order, so the most recent (and complicated) projects are listed first and the crudest are listed last. Dr. Sligh has been at this for a while, but Flash, even a confirmed luddite can be used to create animations that communicate a concept more completely than our own best efforts to get ideas across. Blame it on the Gen-Xers!

### **8. Gr 9-12: Nominate High School Science Teachers for New AAAS Prize**

<http://www.project2061.org/publications/2061Connections/2007/2007-01.htm>

(Click on item #III)

Do you know a science teacher who has made a significant contribution to the advancement of high school science education? If you do and you can demonstrate the results of that teacher's innovative strategy, AAAS wants to hear from you. Now through April 1, AAAS is accepting nominations for the 2007 AAAS Leadership in Science Education Prize for High School Teachers.

Thanks to the generous support of Dr. Edith D. Neimark, the new prize has been established to inspire innovation and excellence in science teaching, to disseminate best practices more widely, and to honor the achievement of outstanding teachers across the United States. The annual award recognizes a high school science teacher who has contributed to the AAAS goal of advancing science education by developing and implementing an innovative and demonstrably effective strategy, activity, or program.

The award recipient will receive a monetary gift of \$1,000 to support the development and continuation of their innovative strategy during the 2007–2008 school year.