

# 2017 Kansas Outstanding Biology Teaching Award (OBTA)

Every year, the Outstanding Biology Teacher Award program attempts to recognize an outstanding biology educator (grades 7-12 only) in each of the 50 states; Washington, DC; Canada; Puerto Rico; and overseas territories. Candidates for this award do not have to be NABT members, but they must have at least *at least* three years of public, private, or parochial school teaching experience. A major portion of the nominee's career must have been devoted to the teaching of biology/life science, and candidates are judged on their teaching ability and experience, cooperativeness in the school and community, inventiveness, initiative, and student-teacher relationships. OBTA recipients are special guests of Carolina Biology Supply Company at the Honors Luncheon held at the NABT Professional Development Conference (St. Louis, November 9-12, 2017), receive gift certificates from Carolina Biological Supply Company, resources from other sponsors (including from Kansas Association of Biology Teachers), and award certificates plus a complimentary one-year membership from NABT.



**Self-nominate**  
by completing the requirements  
below

**OR**

**Nominate a colleague!**



To nominate a colleague, forward him/her the information below OR email the director with his/her contact information ([kelly@tuel.us](mailto:kelly@tuel.us)). The director will send your nominee the application requirements.

*Your application materials (1, 2, 3 and optional 5) should be emailed to the OBTA Director ([kelly@tuel.us](mailto:kelly@tuel.us)) on or before the deadline, **Saturday, April 15**. Regardless of method you choose for us to receive your letters of recommendation (see item 4 below), they must be received by the OBTA director by the same deadline. The 2017 OBTA Awardee will be announced in May.*

1. When emailing your application materials, please put the subject line "<your name> OBTA application." Application components and optional 5a should be attachments. The email body should contain the following:
  - a. Your name, mailing address, and preferred contact (phone# or email)
  - b. Name, address and description of your current school (size, public/private)
  - c. 2016-2017 course schedule
  - d. If applicable, a link to your *optional* video (see 5b).
  - e. A statement that if you are selected to be the OBTA winner, you agree to serve on the selection committee for the following year. Note that this responsibility includes reviewing the application process and reading/scoring applications for the following year.
2. Modified Professional Resume or CV. This document should include easily identifiable sections (in the following order) of:
  - a. Education (including licenses and degrees)
  - b. All teaching positions held (location, courses taught, years)
  - c. School/district activities (including extracurricular, coaching, and/or committees)
  - d. Community involvement/service
  - e. Professional Involvement and Contributions (including professional memberships and leadership in state/regional/national organizations, attendance/presentations at professional meetings, original publications/web resources/videos/tutorials, professional development, workshops, etc.)
3. Short Essays (maximum 400 words per topic below)
  - a. Your philosophy of biological science education for high school/middle school students, relating this to your community and the nation.
  - b. Discuss teaching techniques and strategies that you use in your classroom.
  - c. Include how you present the topic of evolution in teaching biology/life science.
  - d. What is a current challenge (in teaching) that you face? How are you taking steps to overcome that challenge?
4. Exactly **THREE** letters of recommendation (from variety of perspectives such as colleague, administrator or supervisor, parent/student etc.). Letters **MUST** be received to the OBTA Director on or before April 15, 2017.
  - a. Because of the quantity of references received for all applicants, a confirmation of receipt will not be issued. If you want to make sure all letters are received by the OBTA Director, you may collect *closed letters* (sealed and signed on envelope by the letter author) and send them in one envelope. If you wish to confirm delivery to OBTA Director, use postal tracking options. Mail to: Kelley Tuel, OBTA Director 15669 S. Rene St. Olathe, KS 66062
  - b. **Alternatively**, your references may be emailed directly by the author of the letter with your name in the subject line to the OBTA Director. Have references sent digitally to: [kelly@tuel.us](mailto:kelly@tuel.us)
5. **OPTIONAL** Materials:
  - a. Include 1-3 of your favorite adaptations/modifications of labs or lessons. Include these by email attachment along with the rest of your application (the entire lesson should be attached; not a description of the lesson with a link to the lesson).
  - b. A short video (less than 10 minutes) of you teaching a lesson or interacting with your class (in classroom, on field trip, etc.). This video must be remotely accessible by a "click and view" option for the OBTA Committee. Do not mail a DVD. Please send a link to your video in the body of your application email.