Outstanding Administrative Support Award

This prestigious award recognizes and honors an outstanding administrator who through professional work has demonstrated exemplary support for science education at the school, district, and/or county level. This award honors an administrator whose primary responsibility is outside the area of science instruction. The award is presented at the NSELA luncheon held at the 2020 NSELA Leadership Summit. The award is accompanied by a check for $1,000 and a plaque.

Dr. Daniel Daneker is an extraordinary science and technology administrator who leads by example and has impacted educators and students in his district, at local universities as an adjunct professor, across Pennsylvania, and at national levels. Since 2006, Dr. Daneker’s advocacy for students is demonstrated through his support with materials and teacher tools needed to provide engaging student-centered field/lab/project/problem-based science learning experiences. Since becoming an administrator, his collaborative work with teachers, other districts, universities, and community members has garnered over $450,000 in grant funding. Grants have included innovative technologies such as UV flatbed printers and 3D printers to an infrared spectrophotometer. Dan serves as the Pennsylvania Center Director for a multi-state NSF grant coordinated by the Concord Consortium. This grant supports environmental literacy with a focus on the program “Model My Watershed”. Dan and his teacher team presented this program at multiple in state conferences, at the NSTA Conference, and the Pennsylvania School Board Association. In 2019 his department received the Governor’s Award for Environmental Excellence.

Dr. Daneker stated: “I will never ask teachers to complete a task I am not willing to do myself.” Four key aspects guide his role as an administrative leader: curriculum, instruction, assessment and environment. School and classroom observations allow for personal interactions with teachers that support, guide, enlighten and improve teachers in their work. He collaborates with teachers continuously to support the goal of improvement not evaluation. His nominator states “he leads by example.” Under Dan’s leadership, three examples of his department’s initiatives and programs are the Outdoor Learning Network Initiative with partners from different community sectors; a NOAA video featuring his school; and the river experience collaboration for Freshwater Biology high school students and kindergarteners.

NSELA proudly presents the 2020 OASA award to Dr. Daneker, an exemplary leader. His long-term guidance supports a high quality science and technology education for all his district’s students, provides a great work environment for science teachers, and serves as a role model for all educators. Dan states: “Each and every day, my job is to help our teachers be better at their craft.”