The IRIS Education Program in Support of the National Earth Science Teachers Association

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The IRIS Education Program has assisted the National Earth Science Teachers Association (NESTA) through several efforts, most notably in the cooperative work to develop and publish the Spring 2005 issue of The Earth Scientist, NESTA’s quarterly journal. With assistance and funding from the IRIS Education Program the Spring 2005 issue featured the first color cover in the journal’s history, a number of articles that included IRIS research and classroom activities, and a poster of the 2004 Sumatra earthquake. The issue was completed in time for distribution at the 2005 meeting of the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) and NESTA Earth and Space Science Resource Day. As a result of this special issue and the high quality, NESTA has seen a growth in membership and in opportunities to work with other professional associations to publish similar themed issues in the future.

The IRIS Education Program has supported the NESTA coordinated Earth and Space Science Resource Day (ESSRD) activities at NSTA national conventions as mentioned above. The ESSRD activities are a cooperative venture led by NESTA and the American Geophysical Union. This event provides a day of focused Earth and space science activities for meeting attendees. Starting with a keynote speaker for breakfast followed by a Share-a-thon—with IRIS participation—and three science lectures. The IRIS Education Program has sponsored one of the science lectures at the last two meetings and is committed for the 2006 meeting in Anaheim, California. The IRIS Education Program has also sponsored speakers at NSTA regional meetings for similar NESTA events.

Throughout these ventures with NESTA the IRIS Education Program has provided support with a “can do” attitude and enthusiasm. This support has enhanced NESTA programs and provides for a richer experience for NESTA members. NESTA looks forward to a continued relationship with the IRIS Education Program.