

Information about the FSEA Meeting Attendance Award

What is FSEA?

The Florida Society of Environmental Analysts was formed in 1978 by a group of professional analysts interested in maintaining a high level of technical excellence in the collection, analysis, and interpretation of environmental data. Because of the rapid increase in the number of laboratories and the increasing complexity associated with identifying more sophisticated chemical analyses, it had become imperative that some uniformity of procedures, quality control, professional ethics, and integrity be established. From the beginning, it was agreed that these problems were best resolved from within the community of practicing analysts in cooperation with State and Federal agencies rather than waiting upon action from the latter. The founders saw a professional society as the appropriate forum for the dialogue necessary to deal fairly and intelligently with these concerns. Accordingly, the Florida Society of Environmental Analysts, Inc. was chartered as a non-profit corporation by the State of Florida on May 2, 1979.

Over the years, FSEA has continued to grow and expand in order to meet the goals of the Society, which are to:

- Promote professionalism and knowledge of environmental analysts;
- Promote guidelines for education and training for environmental analysts;
- Promote standards of excellence in the field of quality control, including a code of ethics;
- Act as a liaison between the regulatory agencies and membership;
- Take a leadership role in promotion of environmental programs and mentoring; and
- Evaluate new analytical procedures.

Who is involved with FSEA?

Currently, FSEA members and officers come from all areas of environmental analyses; from biologists to chemists, from limnologists to engineers, from commercial laboratories to municipalities, and industrial laboratories to research laboratories. Anyone interested in the environmental analysis field is welcome to apply for membership.

Florida Society of Environmental Analysts members have been active in:

- Holding semi-annual meetings, in which programs and speakers have been both relevant and informative;
- Presenting analytical practices workshops for certification of Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant operators;
- Working with various state agencies in the development of laboratory certification programs;
- Providing an information forum to the membership through the FSEA Website, periodic newsletters, and special announcements;
- Servicing the environmental community by providing a forum to discuss the latest trends in the field, including changes in methodology and regulatory issues;
- Enhancing the ethics, good practice, and status of the individual analyst through active educational programs; and
- Listening and responding to the needs of its constituents and the environment.

The FSEA Student Mentoring Program Mission Statement

The mission of the Student Mentoring Program of the FSEA is to promote interest among young people in the environmental analytical industry, and to foster and encourage students pursuing degrees in science to actively seek membership and support of the FSEA. Interested students apply for the Meeting Attendance Award and have their professors provide a letter of recommendation. It is also the program's goal to facilitate the introduction of future environmental analysts to the environmental industry, including: regulatory agencies, municipality laboratories, private laboratories, instrument and equipment manufacturers and vendors, and environmental consultants and engineers.

What is the FSEA Meeting Attendance Award?

Twice each year, FSEA holds a 3-day conference for its members in order to keep them up-to-date on the latest topics in the environmental analytical industry. The FSEA Meeting Attendance Award is offered for our Spring Conference to high achieving students in the field of environmental analysis. This award is sponsored by FSEA and many of its exhibitors, thus assisting interested students in attending the conference at no charge. In addition, the Meeting Attendance Award automatically makes you an FSEA member for the current year so you can keep abreast of upcoming industry issues, instrumentation, and other meetings or functions. (We offer a scholarship in conjunction with our Fall Conference - follow us on LinkedIn for announcements regarding the Fall Scholarship)

While at the conference, you will be assigned a mentor to assist you. You will be introduced to other members, exhibitors and speakers for great networking opportunities. You will attend workshops and technical sessions on a variety of environmental topics. All expenses including hotel, mileage, meals, etc. are covered by FSEA. A copy of the agenda for the conference can be found on our website www.fsea.net If you have any questions please contact us at secretary@fsea.net

If you are selected to receive the FSEA Meeting Attendance Award we will notify you as soon as possible after the application due date so that you have time to make arrangements to attend.

The selection process includes a committee reviewing your application, letter of recommendation and academic achievements and interest in environmental analysis.