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President's Newsletter Message

The AETS Mission Statement: Directing our Future

Julie Luft, AETS President



- Our most recent summer meeting, however, included time for board members to consider the future of AETS. . . . we were able to consolidate and combine our two mission statements into one. . . . and we began the process of crafting a ten-year plan that will take AETS to the next level as an organization.

The summer AETS board meeting was held this year in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The board formally meets two times a year – once at the January conference, and once during the summer. These meetings allow board members to discuss and deliberate issues that directly affect the membership of the Association. Our most recent summer meeting, however, included time for board members to consider the future of AETS. We examined the mission statements that have circulated among AETS members and the regions, and we began the process of crafting a ten-year plan that will take AETS to the next level as an organization. Though we are still working on our ten-year plan, we were able to consolidate and combine our two mission statements into one. Our new mission statement, which will give direction to the Association in upcoming years, is:

The Association for the Education of Teachers of Science (AETS) promotes leadership and support for professionals involved in the education and development of teachers of science at all levels. AETS advances practice and policy through scholarship, collaboration, and innovation in science teacher education throughout the world.

As President of AETS, this mission statement is significant to me in several ways. First, we identify ourselves as a group that works with all teachers of science throughout their careers and across the continuum of their development. As individuals, we have expertise in working with pre-service teachers, reforming undergraduate science courses, or crafting professional development programs for induction or in-service teachers, but we understand that becoming and being a teacher of science is a long-term, developmental process. AETS works on many levels to guide the education and development of teachers of science.

In addition to characterizing ourselves more broadly, we have now

formally expressed our commitment to the development of leadership skills. While we have always felt that leadership was important in our organization, the new mission statement reconfirms our obligation to provide opportunities for members to learn about and to engage in leadership at the local, state, national, or international level. Upon the completion of our ten-year plan, I am optimistic that we will have specific committees focused on building leadership within the Association. This program will ultimately provide AETS members with new skills and will enhance the impact of their work.

The second part of our mission statement gives us direction as an Association by focusing our efforts in the areas of practice and policy. In the area of practice, the AETS membership has excelled. We have explored new instructional methods, conceived progressive curricula, and most importantly, we are in the field daily with teachers of science. However, in the past our organization has not focused on directing policy. In response to new federal standards for teaching and learning, we must actively work to influence policy and the current educational agenda. Shaping policy and continuing our work in practice requires that our membership engage in scholarship, that we collaborate with one another and across associations/groups, and that we continue to explore innovations that impact the teaching of science.

In the upcoming months, I hope you take a few moments to contemplate our mission statement and to discuss it with other members. Ultimately, it is a powerful statement that positions the Association to continue our leadership in science teacher education.

Julie Luft

Dear AETS Member, Included in this issue of the AETS Newsletter is ELECTION MATERIAL.

Candidates for AETS President -elect; Director-at-large; and Elections Committee; present their Position Statements on pages 2 through 6. Position statements can also be found at the AETS website on the elections 2004 link (<http://TheAETS.org>)

Voting deadline is **November 1, 2004**. Again this year the Elections Committee has provided two options for registering your vote--please choose **ONE**. Either:

- 1) Complete the inserted mail-in ballot and send it to the address on its reverse side, OR
- 2) To Vote on-line use your last name and AETS voter PIN to vote online. Members can have their voter PIN emailed to them automatically. Simply go to the voter page on the AETS website (<http://TheAETS.org>), and click on the link "Need your voter PIN?"

Thank you!

Candidates for President

Kathy Norman California State University San Marcos

I am a Professor of Science Education and have been active in AETS since the first international meeting, have presented at every international meeting, and have been actively involved in two regions: Far West and Southwest. My AETS leadership roles include Director-at-Large on the Executive Board (two terms: 93-96 and 02-05), chair of the Professional Development Committee (02-05), chair of the Inclusive Science Education Committee (93-96), chair of the 2001 Conference, co-chair of the 1999 Conference, regional director of the Far West Region, and member of the Conference Coordination Committee, Program Committee, and Committee on Regional Units.

Continued next page

Kathy Norman Cont.

If I am elected president of the organization, I will represent the membership and help guide the organization to be the key international organization for science teacher education. This is an important time for AETS to become a leader in political discussions, policy formation and decisions in k-college science education and science teacher education. I will serve the members and work to increase our membership, expand leadership opportunities, and improve information flow to members and other science teacher educators. During my terms as chair of the AETS Professional Development Committee and as chair of the AETS Inclusive Science Education Committee, I was fortunate to lead committee members as they made significant contributions to the organization and changes that benefited all members of AETS. The next few years are pivotal as AETS changes its name and seeks to become an established, well-respected organization that everyone knows and turns to for answers related to science teaching and science teacher education. I would be honored to serve the organization during this time.

Kenneth Tobin City University of New York

I have served as president of NARST and also several other organizations, including Section Q (science education) of AAAS and SAETS. My goal in seeking the Presidency of AETS is to serve the organization at a time when science teacher education is at a critical juncture. Increasingly science teacher educators are required to be responsive to politicians and university administrators, to align programs and practices with policies and mandates that are not well supported by research, are often justified by distorted analyses of research in education, and ignore research in science education. AETS can promote research in science teacher education and provide support for members to develop and sustain science teacher education programs that make a difference locally and are at the same time responsive to scholarly debate and calls for high standards.

For more than 25 years it has been a priority for my graduate students, colleagues, and me to be actively involved in AETS, regionally and nationally, and to support science teacher education through research in science teacher education. As President of AETS I would reach out to NSTA, NARST and AAAS to create connections to create and promote an agenda for the improvement of science teacher education in ways that are informed by the scholarship of AETS members. My goal would be to earn the respect of other stakeholders, especially scientists and social scientists, for the profession of science education and create conditions whereby practices in science teacher education are informed by AETS.

Candidates for Director at Large (Vote for Two)

Caroline Beller Oklahoma State University

As a member of AETS since 1994, I have been learning about how AETS is organized in specific areas such as registration and the Elections Committee. I have a very strong interest in our organization and its place in science education nationally. We as the leaders have a responsibility to our members and the future science teachers to be as current as possible with practices and theories in order to perform our jobs. Serving as "Director at Large" would give me the opportunity to learn more about how our organization is structured and how it can best serve the members.

Over the past five years, as a member of AETS I have made at least one presentation per year and some years I have been involved in two or more presentations at the national conferences. In addition to making presentations, my service to the organization has involved the following duties: 1. Pre-conference Workshop Chair in Nashville and Charlotte, 2. serving on the conference committees in Nashville and Charlotte, 3. working with the registration committee ever since 1994, and 4. Chair of the registration volunteers since 1997, 5. I was elected to the Elections Committee for a two year term and served as chair during my second year, 6. this year I am also serving on the Pre-conference Program Committee. For 2004/05 I am serving as the Southwest AETS Conference Program Chair.

Continued next page

More Candidates for Director at Large (Vote for Two)

Craig Berg – University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

I have been active in AETS since January 1993 at the Charleston, S.C. national conference. The enthusiasm and knowledge that I brought home convinced me that this was a critical and valuable group to associate with. My participation and leadership within AETS includes numerous presentations, workshops, and committee work. In addition, I served as Program Co-Chair for the AETS 2003 and 1998 national conferences, and served for five years as Co-Editor of JSTE. AETS is an organization that needs to remain strong and I would contribute to this effort if elected as Director at Large.

AETS has provided valuable guidance and assistance for those involved in preparing science teachers and should continue to be a very important organization in determining the future of science teacher preparation. AETS is the primary conduit for those who wish to develop and build outstanding science teacher preparation programs across the globe. As the central core of my daily professional life is science teacher education and producing exemplary science teachers, I have a burning desire for improving science teacher preparation that I would carry with me into this leadership role in AETS. If elected as a Director at Large, I will vigorously work to help AETS promote effective science teacher education.

Eileen Parsons North Carolina State University

My involvement in AETS spans several years. I present regularly at AETS conferences and review proposals. I served as chair and chair-elect for the Inclusive Science Education Forum. Presently, I am a member of the Equity committee. I am committed to AETS.

After receiving a Ph. D. from Cornell University, I a) taught high school science in a rural setting; b) worked with prospective elementary, middle, and high school teachers who were enrolled at a small, liberal arts college; and c) worked with lateral entry teachers and Master candidates (elementary teachers) at a doctoral institution. Currently, I am employed at NC State University, a research I institution; I work with secondary science pre-service teachers and Master's and Ph. D candidates in science education. I have also published articles on equity and cultural issues in urban science teaching. If I am elected to the Board, these diverse experiences will influence my role.

Among other efforts, I desire to participate in two. First, I would help develop avenues to engage a wider cross-section of the membership in the operation of AETS and in determining the organization's positions on educational issues. Second, I would assist in recruiting underrepresented groups that include but are not limited to ethnic minorities, persons with disabilities, faculty from small colleges, and graduate students. Because I value AETS, it would be an honor to become a part of the leadership team, assume a "worker bee" role, and be involved in making the organization stronger as we move forward.

Jon Pedersen University of Oklahoma

Over the past 5 years I have served AETS and have been involved in various ways. Most notably, I was the Executive Secretary for AETS for five years and that experience alone gives me a deep understanding of the organization. I am currently the President Elect of the Southwest AETS Region and will be hosting the 2005 SWAETS meeting here in Oklahoma at the University of Oklahoma. I have published numerous articles in JSTE, and presented at the annual meeting most every year including: individual papers; panel and round table discussions; poster sessions; and invited symposiums. I also serve on the editorial review board for JSTE.

Serving an organization like AETS is a serious commitment of time and energy. I saw first hand as the Executive Secretary those board members (and presidents) that chose to run (and subsequently got elected) for the "position" rather than the service. The commitment that I make by accepting a possible nomination is to the service of the association and to its members. AETS, not unlike any other organization depends on those willing and able to do the work necessary to make it successful. Board members need to be prepared to take on issues and commit time and energy to maintain the excellence of the association and look for ways to continually improve AETS. My experience over the past 15 years with AETS, and most recently as Executive Secretary, gives me a wealth of experience to bring to the table as a board member. In regards to how I plan to serve...I plan to serve in an active manner dedicated to the nature and ideology of AETS and its membership.

Candidates for Election Committee (Vote for Two)

Malcolm Butler University of Georgia

Since 1999, I have had the opportunity to become involved with AETS and its regional organization, SAETS. During this time, I made five presentations at conferences, all of which were well-received. These presentations were on topics related to writing to learn in science, international science teacher education, science content in elementary science methods courses and environmental education. In addition to attending sessions related to my teaching and research interests, I spent a significant part of my time at these conferences networking and interacting with other science teacher educators about issues of importance to the science education community, such as professional development for science teacher educators and the politics of science education. These conversations have informed and impacted my teaching, research and service. In addition, I plan to attend and present at AETS' 2005 conference in Colorado, as well as SAETS' annual conference in Florida in October 2004.

I am humbled by the possibility of serving AETS beyond sharing ideas during conference presentations. Indeed, having been involved with AETS over the last five years, I have been impressed with the level of commitment on the part of its organizational leaders in maintaining an environment that is open to multiple perspectives about the education of teachers of science. At this point in my career, I realize it is necessary for me to make myself more available to an organization that has served me well. If elected to serve on the election committee, I will diligently work to recruit and select candidates that will be reflective of the organization's membership. I believe it is important to have a group of leaders who are diverse in their thoughts and experiences, yet commonly concerned about the central issue- the education of teachers of science. If elected to the election committee, I will serve this organization with a zeal that is indicative of my sincere commitment to AETS.

Ann Cavallo Wayne State University

In the last 3 – 5 years I have been an active member of AETS, and have served on the Editorial Boards of *Journal of Science Teacher Education* and *Journal of Elementary Science Education*. I have published articles in these journals, with the most recent publication in *JESE* in 2002. I have also presented papers at AETS conferences, and recently presented at the 2004 Annual Conference in Nashville, TN.

The science educator positions I have held at different universities have made me acutely aware of the widely different needs and challenges our science teachers face in various educational settings. Our organization must be prepared to provide guidance, mentorship and resources to teachers in these diverse settings. As an AETS Elections Committee member, I would ensure that candidates consist of science educators who serve teachers in the varied geographic, social, economic, and ethnically diverse educational settings, and that the membership is fairly and equitably represented. I would work to recruit candidates for AETS positions reflecting our organization's commitment to diversity and strive to ensure that all members have a voice in matters related to science teacher education and our organization.

Further, our organization must continue to advance its presence on national and international political levels on all issues pertaining to science teacher education. I would serve AETS to help promote that presence and leadership, widely communicating our mission and emphasizing our position as the premiere organization dedicated to educating teachers of science for the 21st century.

Joanne Olson Iowa State University

I have been involved with AETS since I began my doctoral program, and I have served at regional and national levels. In 2002 I was elected director of the North Central region. In this capacity I represented the region at two AETS national board meetings, and served on the newly-developed committee of regional directors. I organized the NC-AETS fall meeting in Madison, WI in 2002. NC-AETS hosted the 2003 AETS meeting in St. Louis, and I served as the program co-chair. Since 2000, I have given sixteen presentations at AETS and six presentations at NC-AETS, focusing on my work in elementary science teacher education and the nature of science. Many of these presentations involve graduate students—our future science teacher educators. NC-AETS has been a superb setting for graduate students to meet colleagues and gain confidence in making professional presentations prior to their first AETS meeting.

Continued on the next page

Joanne Olson Cont.

The Elections Committee serves a crucial role in the future of the organization. I am deeply committed to the advocacy of science teacher education and the vital importance of both research and effective practices in science teacher education. I wish to continue to serve AETS in positive, productive ways that move the field and the organization forward while drawing on our rich historical roots. My role in this committee would be to represent the membership, promote the mission of the organization, and ensure fair and consistent opportunities for leadership in AETS. I take such responsibilities very seriously and would do my very best to ensure this role is carried out effectively.

Jim McDonald Central Michigan University

I have been a member of AETS for the last seven years and of the North Central Region of AETS for the last five years, starting as a graduate student at Purdue University. I have presented at least one session for the last five years at the Annual Meeting and for three consecutive years at the Annual Meeting of the North Central Region. I have been a pleasure to serve on the following committees of AETS: Ad Hoc Committee on Endorsement and Support for one year, Ad Hoc Committee on Technology Enhancement for Teacher Education for two years, and the Professional Development Committee for the last two years.

AETS is only as strong, vital, and active as its membership. Since AETS is a voice for science education, it is essential that more members' voices be heard during the nomination process. As a member of the Elections Committee of AETS I will actively seek nominations from a cross section of our membership and will seek to have a ballot that represents the diversity and energy of our organization. This diversity includes international members, graduate students, all AETS regions, and levels of experience of science educators. It will be my pleasure and honor to serve AETS as a member of the Elections Committee.

Remember: use the included ballot or vote electronically by November 1, 2004

Announcements

AETS Mailing Labels

When your institution prepares to advertise new faculty positions, please suggest that mailing labels of AETS members be purchased for that purpose.

AETS makes mailing labels of its members available at a modest charge of \$100 to select groups such as publishers of science teaching textbooks, science education grants, and colleges and universities that advertise faculty vacancies.

Labels are available from: Walter S. Smith, Executive Secretary, Association for the Education of Teachers of Science, Department of Biology, Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306-0440.

Note: The home email address for Caryl and Walter Smith **has changed to eelslake@comcast.net**.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Science Activities, a 42 year-old peer reviewed journal, seeks articles that describe projects, experiments, and curriculum ideas for the K-12 classrooms. The activities should promote science inquiry and/or integration with other disciplines and be teacher-tested. We encourage authors to submit supplementary illustrative materials, such as photographs, tables, charts, and drawings.

An editorial board made up of science education professionals reviews all manuscripts. The review process takes three to four months, at the end of which authors are notified of the disposition of their manuscripts. Accepted articles are published in turn. If you wish to submit an article or would like a sample of our author guidelines, please contact:

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Announcements Continued

AETS 2005 International Conference

Science education: past, present and future

The 2005 International AETS Conference will be held at the Antlers Hilton Colorado Springs. The conference will begin on Thursday, January 20 and end on Sunday, January 23, 2005. All AETS meeting space is on the main floor adjacent to the lobby-reception area, a lively brewpub, the hotel's full service restaurant, and a public lounge space with coffee in the morning and bar service in the afternoon/evening. The Antlers Hilton is conveniently located within the downtown area and is a block walk from Tejon Street. To many, the Tejon Street neighborhood is the hallmark of the downtown area, as it offers over 20 restaurants, a plethora of small shops, and nightly musical entertainment at several venues.

Preliminary Program

The conference begins with a selection of professional development workshops and field trips to local sites on Thursday morning. Concurrent sessions with a variety of formats start that afternoon and conclude late Saturday afternoon. Additional professional development workshops will be embedded in the concurrent session program (a new feature) and on Sunday morning for those able to delay departure until Sunday mid-day. Field trips to local sites are also planned for Sunday morning.

Another new feature is a poster session along with the traditional Thursday evening reception. Food service for the reception is sponsored by the Biological Sciences Curriculum Study and Colorado College. At least two keynote addresses will be provided during the conference, one by Dr. Bill Schmidt early Thursday afternoon and the other by Dr. Rodger Bybee on Friday. Both will speak to aspects of assessment and the implications for science education including K-12, college level science teaching and science teacher preparation. Together they will help us reflect on the past (TIMSS), present and future (PISA) of science education. The reception of Women in Science Education (WISE) is scheduled for Friday evening. We particularly encourage AETS members to invite science colleagues to join us for this conference.

Conference Travel

Colorado Springs, a city of nearly 500,000, sits at the foot of Pikes Peak and provides an easy gateway to Colorado winter ski areas. It boasts over 300 days of sunshine each year including January, which is the driest month along Colorado's front range (high desert). While some may prefer to fly into and out of Denver renting a car for the 80 mile drive south to Colorado Springs, it is usually more convenient to fly directly to Colorado Springs. Major airlines serve the city with over 60 daily non-stop flights to 15 hub cities. United, for example, offers 5 flights to and from Chicago, 5 to and from Los Angeles and over 10 daily flights to and from Denver. American, America West, Continental, Delta and Northwest offer multiple flights to and from their hub cities.

The special AETS hotel rate is \$99 single or double. The code for our meeting is AETO11. You may make reservations on line (www.Hilton.com) or by calling Hilton at 1-866-299-4602 or 1-800-HILTONS. In the meantime, put the conference on your calendar and plan on participating in a challenging and rewarding professional conference next January.

Biological Educator: Responsibilities to include teaching at the introductory level and involvement in research related to college biology teaching. In-depth education in biology, commitment to research in biological education, and experience in course/program development are job requirements. Research responsibilities include directing undergraduate and graduate students, and pursuit of extramural funding. Position # 103160. Rank is open, commensurate with experience, and a doctorate is required by the August 2004 start date. Application review to begin on August 26, 2004. Send application letter referencing position number, curriculum vitae, copies of transcripts and three original current letters of reference to: Dr. Michael Rutledge, Committee Chair, Box 60 MTSU Murfreesboro, TN 37132 (mrutledg@mtsu.edu). EO/AA/ADA Employer.



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AETS Promoting Leadership in, and support for those involved in professional development of teachers of science

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Remember to vote for the 2005 AETS Officers.

Use the included ballot or vote electronically by November 1, 2004

Plan now for the 2005 **AETS annual conference**
in Colorado Springs.