



Reflections, Gratitude, and Encouragement

Stacy Hootman

Goodness...when you are busy, a year goes by fast! When I began my presidency of HASTI, I did not know all that we would accomplish together. From updating our bylaws, imagining and running our first ever mini conferences focused on the Next Generation Science Standards, leading a successful 2023 co-conference with the Indiana Council for Teachers of Mathematics (ICTM)... we have done some really great work for science education in Indiana. None of this work would have been possible without the support of a few groups of people:

To the HASTI Board of Directors - Thank you.

At any time, I could call on this team and there would ALWAYS be individuals who would step up to get the work done. I am convinced that we have one of the strongest and most dedicated Board of Directors in science education! It has been an honor to serve with you this past year. I hope you know how much you are appreciated!

To the members of HASTI-thank you.

Thank you for trusting the HASTI Board of Directors and engaging with us to improve science education in Indiana. We appreciate your membership and ask that you continue to share with others about the good work being done by HASTI. We also know that from this membership will rise the next Board of Directors! I want to encourage you that if you are considering becoming more involved in HASTI, please do. Any one of the board members would be happy to answer your questions and assist you in finding the right fit for you, and we look forward to your involvement and ideas! It is incredibly satisfying working with such a great group of dedicated individuals.

To those of you who attended our conference(s)-thank you.

This year we branched out and created mini-conferences, and we really didn't know how popular they would be! Many of you signed up to attend and shared wonderful feedback that we will use to continue to improve what we offer. Whether you attended a mini-conference or our annual conference, we appreciate you trusting us with providing strong professional development in science education that assists you to continue improving your craft.

As I transition from the HASTI presidency, I now become our 2024 conference chair. Recently our 2024 annual conference was announced, and we will again be partnering with ICTM so that teachers that attend the conference can receive professional development in both science and math education at one time.

Here are some highlights of the upcoming HASTI/ICTM Conference:
(More details available at <https://hasti.org>)

Theme:

“Cultivating Curiosity and Deepening Discovery”

Dates:

February 18-20, 2024

Location:

Indianapolis Marriott East

Full listing of authors and contacts can be found at the end of this article.



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Strands:

Leveraging Assessment

- Assessment as a way to show evidence of students' varied strengths and gifts.
- Making a product and demonstrating knowledge via means other than tests, such as presentations, posters, models, etc.
- Preference will be given to proposals that share rubric(s) or other grading criteria.

Developing Inclusive, Diverse, Equitable and Supportive Classrooms

- Best practices and inclusive strategies for reaching ALL learners in ways that are equitable and affirming.
- Social-Emotional Learning activities
- Preference will be given to proposals that describe how barriers to learning are removed for learners.

Inspiring Instruction

- Inventive ways of implementing Three Dimensional Teaching in science and Process Standards in mathematics
- Strategies that encourage curiosity and discovery in learners (phenomena, projects, problems, etc.)
- Preference will be given to proposals that include plans for complete lessons or units that teachers have actually run in their classrooms.

“To Boldly Go...”

- Encouraging students to think about space, exploration of our universe, and eclipses.
- How can we use earth/space-based phenomena to excite and engage students?
- Teaching earth/space-based learning within the NGSS framework

Science & STEM Literacy

- How literacy and science/STEM work together to cultivate science/STEM literate students.
- Presenters will share specific resources (books, websites, articles, blogs, etc.) that they have used in their classroom.
- Teaching students how to read/write and use primary sources.

We would appreciate your assistance in spreading the word about the 2024 conference. Proposals are being accepted now through August 31, and we hope you will take this opportunity to share your ideas with other educators in Indiana. And if you would like to be involved with the HASTI Conference Committee, please reach out to conferencechair@hasti.org. We would absolutely love to have you!

It has been a great year. A busy year. A year full of important work to be done for science educators in Indiana. HASTI is a wonderful organization, and it has been my joy to serve as president. I would encourage anyone considering serving with HASTI to get involved. You will be impressed with the dedication of those on the board, thrilled for the future of science education in Indiana, and professionally encouraged to continue this important work.

Author

Stacy Hootman (stacymccormack99@gmail.com) is the Dean of the School of Arts, Sciences and Education and the School of Health Sciences at Ivy Tech, Hamilton County, Indiana, USA.