



2025 HASTI Conference Update: Embracing the Future Together

Craig Williams

Abstract

2025 HASTI Conference Chairman Craig Williams gives an update on the theme and plans for the next HASTI Conference. This communication announces the theme of the 2025 conference, and answers three questions: Why are we focusing on the future, how will we do it, and how will having the conference at Noblesville High School provide a superior experience for attendees?

As the 2025 Conference Chair, I am excited to announce the Theme of the 2025 HASTI Conference: ***Embracing the Future Together***. In this communication, I would like to answer three questions that might come to mind. Why do we need to embrace the future? How will we embrace the future together? Where will we meet to embrace the future together?

Why do we need to embrace the future? The last few years in education have been a whirlwind of change. As we have recovered and continue to recover from the pandemic, we are hearing about new technologies and AI, and figuring out how to keep our students engaged in learning science. We need to prepare them for the careers and the world of tomorrow. The opportunities are endless, but we need to help each other avoid the pitfalls and overcome challenges. Some of the key themes of this conference: the future of literacy instruction, the future of STEM and engineering, the future of cross-curricular instruction, and the future of life on our planet.

How will we embrace the future together? By doing what we do best: providing quality professional development in the context of a supportive network of peers. While there will be a lot of information presented, one doesn't go to HASTI just for information. One also goes to HASTI to be among other teachers from around the state who are also passionate about their teaching.

While we will have the traditional forty-five-minute talks (both lecture and hands-on), we will also have several sessions intentionally designed to allow teachers to network and learn from each other. We are planning unconference sessions, share-a-thons, panel sessions, gatherings for specific grade levels and disciplines, evening socials, and more!

Where will we meet to embrace the future together? As I communicated at the 2024 conference in February, we will have our 2025 conference at Noblesville High School. The members of the HASTI board selected this location because we will be able to provide a superior conference experience and do so in a way that is economical for our members. We will have access to multiple classrooms, including several with science lab space. We are planning for another great exhibit hall, with many opportunities for attendees to interact with and learn about the companies, schools, and organizations represented there. After the daily sessions, we will have social activities in the surrounding community.

The registration fees for the 2025 conference will be released soon. We are excited that the fees will be lower than they have been the last couple of years, primarily due to the fact that we will not be paying for food through a hotel. We hope that this will make it easier for HASTI members to attend the conference and will entice new people to join us!

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



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For those that have been around awhile, you know that we have switched conference locations a number of times. HASTI originally met in smaller hotels. When our attendance ballooned into the thousands, we began meeting at the Convention Center. This came with a host of costs, many of which were shouldered by attendees, such as parking, meals, and hotels downtown.

For the last several years, we have been meeting in smaller hotels outside of downtown. This has cut down on the extra costs shouldered by attendees, but has added to the cost shouldered by HASTI. Lunches and snacks had to go through the hotel, and this ultimately resulted in higher conference registration fees, as well as adding complexity to the planning.

By meeting at Noblesville High School, we are fully in control of our destiny. We are happy that we will have lower registration fees for the 2025 conference. Attendees will still continue to enjoy free parking, good meals at lunchtime, and will find a range of hotels nearby to suit their needs. This will allow the HASTI board members to focus on the professional development experience and the peer networking experience for the attendees. It allows our organization to put its energy and focus into making these two things the best they can be.

The countdown has begun. I can't wait to see you February 15-17th, 2025 at Noblesville High School!

2025 HASTI Conference *Embracing the Future Together.*

February 15-17, 2025

Noblesville High School



Author

Craig Williams (craig.williams@nwesc.k12.in.us) is the current Past President of HASTI and will chair the 2025 Conference. He teaches Physics at Northwestern H.S. in Kokomo, IN.