



President's Paragraph: Notes from HASTI's President A Thank You Note to Teachers

Dawn Bick

In each issue of The Hoosier Science Teacher, we invite the president to share some thoughts as an introduction. In this issue, HASTI's current President Dawn Bick offers a word of thanks to Indiana's science teachers.

Welcome to summer! I hope you have been able to sleep in, eat lunch at a restaurant with friends and family, and go to the bathroom when your body wants you to go. Our self-indulgences are small, aren't they? No matter what your role in the educational world, you are in a job that is rewarding in some ways and draining in others. Teaching is hard. Teaching doesn't often give us words of encouragement, actions of appreciation, or feelings of respect. I feel my new role as President of HASTI is to encourage, uplift, and support you, the hardest working people I know.

Thank you! Thank you for working well past the end of the day and the last bell on lesson plans. Thank you for legitimately grading papers according to effort instead of tossing them down the stairs and giving the ones that get to the bottom an A. Thank you for sacrificing your personal time to become a better educator and leader taking professional development and watching videos to sharpen your skills. Thank you for showing up every day with colds and upset stomachs because you know how much harder it is to make sub plans than it is to just show up. Thank you for all you do even when you seldom, if ever, see the results of your efforts.

It happened to me this summer. I happened to be at the high school graduation of a family friend. As I was listening to the names being called, I heard a few familiar ones, my former students, being called forward. I said to my husband, "That one is mine." "And that one is mine." I haven't

taught these graduating seniors in 7 years or more, but I still consider them mine. After graduation, we gathered outside and found our family friend. Some of my former students saw me and said my name long before I recalled theirs. They were glad to see me. They hugged me. They wanted to take pictures with me. One of them told me that I inspired her to major in teaching. My heart swelled.

We don't often get thanked as educators. We don't often feel appreciated. We sometimes don't know whether we've made the right choices each day regarding our students.

You are valuable! You are important! Your efforts are making a difference and planting seeds you may never see or experience! Take this "time off" as your time to remind yourself how exceptional you are! You are touching lives and making the future better. Enjoy your summer and recharge! Remember that you've earned the right to sleep in, eat lunch at your favorite restaurant, and go to the bathroom whenever you want!

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