HASTI

2023 – 2024 Election of Board of Directors

President: Dawn Bick

**Biographical paragraph:**

I have taught elementary science and STEM at the Hasten Hebrew Academy of Indianapolis for 19 years.  I also taught Middle School Science for 3 years in two public school systems.  I have been on the HASTI Board for several years as a District Director and Elementary Director.  I graduated from Purdue University in 1997 with a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education.  I minored in Middle School Science.  When I began at Purdue, I was in the engineering program with the intention to join the Purdue tradition of astronauts.  It didn't work out, but I kept the science and didn't want to lose it as I entered education.  My teaching career has always included hands-on, inquiry science education.  My intention, as a teacher, is to help my students become scientists.  I want them to feel comfortable taking data and making conclusions based on their observations about the world.

**What I hope to accomplish as a HASTI board member:**

I would like to continue the current efforts to engage and educate educators about the NGSS standards and proven strategies for teaching science to students through professional development.  I would make regional professional development a priority.  I would like to explore more opportunities to collaborate with other grade levels.  I think a mentor program within the HASTI organization would allow new teachers that join HASTI to strengthen their skills and give our seasoned members a role who are not on the board and involved.  I believe we are stronger when we support each other, across grade levels and through our experience.  I believe the future of HASTI is to engage our members in this vision and empower them to mentor and support each other.

Vice – President - Skylee Shaffer

In order to make the best decision, let me offer some background information about myself and what I hope to bring to the table.

I have been an educator since 2017. My first position was with Mooresville School District teaching Earth & Space and AP Environmental Science. In 2018 Noblesville High School reached out to me and asked if I would apply for a science position and I have been there ever since. At NHS I have taught Biology, Earth & Space Science and Meteorology. In addition to teaching students, I have a passion for teaching educators. I currently have a Master's in Science Education with the hopes of achieving a doctorate in Curriculum and Instruction. I am able to live this passion of helping other educators in two ways; the first being an Education Specialist for the Center for Earth and Environmental Sciences at IU Indianapolis, the second being an independent curriculum consultant where I help teachers backward plan and align to the "NGSS-ified" Indiana State Standards. I have presented for HASTI four times in the last two years and I love lifting up other educators and empowering them to do amazing things in their classrooms.

My vision for HASTI is to support the whole teacher. What I mean by this is to have professional development that encompasses more than just science curriculum. For example, I am currently on the new teacher retention committee for HASTI and a teacher mentor for NHS. New teacher burnout isn't just about not having curricular support, but a combination of many factors. I would love to see HASTI not just give presentations on curriculum but also classroom management, science literacy, and providing a network of support for teachers who might be alone in their district. I would like to see teachers, especially new teachers, get the most out of their yearly membership and be able to connect to others in a meaningful way. I want to see HASTI grow and become more accessible to teachers who may not get support from their district to attend. I am excited about the move away from convention centers, as I believe this is how we achieve that goal. Lastly, I hope to see our teacher presenters become more educated on NGSS and how to implement the cross-cutting concepts, disciplinary core idea, and practices. This goal can easily be achieved by having more NGSS mini conferences and growing that section of HASTI.

I look forward to working with HASTI in this capacity and am excited to see how we grow!

High School: Tina Harris

I have been teaching Physical Science, Earth Science, Environmental Science (both regular and AP), and or Astronomy in middle and high school for over 30 years. I have also taught science teaching methods courses at IUB and IUK. I have a degree in Earth and Physical Science Education from Purdue University, an MA in Science Education from Ball State University, and an EdS in Secondary Education with an emphasis in Earth and Environmental Sciences from Indiana University. I have been a presenter at HASTI and NSTA conferences since 1996, and previously served as an officer for the Indiana Earth Science Teachers Association where I organized field trips and newsletters. Over the years I have participated in many things that I integrate into my teaching, like working on the Indiana state science standards and curricula; I was a Geologist in the Park one summer for the National Park Service; I teach science and pre-engineering classes for gifted students in the summer for CTY; I grade AP ES exams; I travel and collect rocks and take photographs of interesting environmental and space topics; I (try to) garden; I read books on the history of science and climate change.

I was appointed the High School Director for HASTI in the summer of 2022 when the previous director resigned. I had previously served HASTI as a Director-At-Large and a Middle School Director. Since being appointed to finish that term, I have served on several committees and will continue to work on the publications committee in which I serve The Hoosier Science Teacher as a reviewer and have submitted one article. As a member of the board, I would continue to provide input to these committees and to board meetings that represents Indiana teachers and our concerns. I would continue to share information I learn from those on the HASTI Board with teachers to aid them in their endeavors. For example, I am working with several people on and off the board in preparing for the April 2024 eclipse where I transfer information back and forth to each. I feel I provide a voice for teachers because of my many connections with colleagues I have taught with in both northern and now southern Indiana. I hope you allow me to continue to serve you as a board member.

College: Adam Scribner

I am the Director of STEM Education Initiatives for the Indiana University School of Education where I bridge research to practice to create transformative K-12 STEM teaching and learning experiences.My expertise lies in the areas of designing K-12 STEM curricula as well as teacher professional development around the integration of multiple STEM disciplines. In my current role, over the last six years, I have served as principal investigator or co-principal investigator of 27 grant-funded projects totaling more than $4.4M to advance STEM education in Indiana. I currently serve as co-principal investigator of a National Science Foundation project aimed at teaching young learners about artificial intelligence through problem-based science lessons as well as principal investigator of Educating for Environmental Change, a project that helps educators teach the science and policy of climate change. Through these and other projects, I work with numerous in-service science teachers throughout Indiana and also serve as an instructor of pre-service science teachers at IU.  Before joining IU, I worked for six years at the Center for Innovation in Engineering and Science Education (CIESE) at Stevens Institute of Technology (NJ). A certified biology teacher, I taught in Montclair, NJ for 13 years prior to joining CIESE. Throughout my career, I have presented at numerous national and regional conferences including HASTI, NSTA, ASEE, ITEEA, and the Global Teaching Dialogue.

My mission as a College Director of HASTI is to cultivate partnerships with Indiana science educators, higher education, the Indiana Department of Education, and other key stakeholders to increase awareness of HASTI and help continue HASTI’s important work of advancing teaching and learning of science in Indiana. My goal is to help foster Indiana’s next generation of scientists, engineers, creators, and innovators. Over the last year, I have greatly enjoyed serving on the HASTI Board of Directors and have contributed by aiding recruitment of both in-service and pre-service teachers, presenting at the HASTI conferences (three presentations in February and one in October), and actively serving on the publications and solar eclipse committees.

**At-Large 1:** John Harkness

***Biographical Data***

*Current Employment Information and Degrees Received*

* 2003-Present: West Washington High School, Campbellsburg, IN
  + Taught: Physics, Physics AP, ICP, Earth-Space Science, 8th Grade Science, Algebra, Geometry, Precalculus, Trig, Calculus, PBL, and American Sign Language.
* 2016: Oakland City University, Eighteen post-graduate hours in Mathematics
* 2010: Indiana University, Masters in Secondary Education
* 2003: Indiana University, BS in secondary math and science education

*HASTI Activities*

* Member of HASTI since 2011
* Presented at HASTI Conference 2012-14
* HASTI District 9 Director since 2018
* Assist at Registration table at HASTI conference since 2018
* Nomination Committee Chair

*Additional Activities and Honors.*

* 2022 Indiana Teacher of the Year Top 25 Finalist
* 2021-present: West Washington Science Department Head
* 2020-present: West Washington Honor Society Sponsor
* 2018-19 Indiana Small and Rural School Association Rural Teacher of the Year
* 2019 National Rural Teacher of the Year Finalist
* 2012-2015: Mentor Instructor at Purdue University

**Position Statement**

To my students, provide the best instruction and guidance in any subject that will give them the tools to be successful in life.

To my peers, provide mentorship and support to create the best teaching environment possible.

To HASTI, contribute to the continual improvement and maintenance of the best platform of science instruction and support for teachers in Indiana.

**At-Large 2:** Rhonda Johnson

Biography:

My name is Rhonda Johnson. I have been teaching 7th Grade Science at North Adams Community Schools at Bellmont Middle School since 2000. I am a graduate of Taylor University Fort Wayne. I am originally from Los Angeles, California where I taught kindergarten through 8th grade Physical Education from 1992 to 1997. A big earthquake happened, followed by other life events, which moved my family to the Midwest. After renewing my teaching license to Indiana, and giving in to my lifelong love for Science, – I was hired by North Adams Community Schools twenty-four years ago.

I love Algebra, but am not especially fond of Geometry. I love all branches of Science, but have a special fondness for Life Science and Earth and Space Science. I also like Middle School students but am scared of kindergarteners.

I have a husband of 36 years who has not yet sold me to the circus as I have many and varied hobbies. I am a long distance open-water swimmer, model train enthusiast, avid kayaker, and hard-core Bananagrams player. (I can also quote the entire move, “The Princess Bride” by heart!) We have two daughters who both work for Indiana University in Bloomington and one son-in-law.

My teaching career hit a rock (as sometimes happens) and I attended my first HASTI Conference rather broken. My career was saved at that conference as I met many other teachers who had compassion on the wounded and encouraged me not to give up. This is now my passion for HASTI. To find those of us who have been hurt in our profession, who feel like giving up, and to encourage, to help find your passion again.

District 6: Open

District 7: Merle Callahan

Biography

Retired 2016 from North Daviess Jr/Sr High School, Elnora, Indiana after 41 years of teaching Chemistry, Biology, Junior High Science

M.S. Secondary Education 1981 Indiana University, Bloomington, IN

B.S. Biology 1975 Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN HASTI

Attended the HASTI conference each year from 1989-2016

Presented several times at HASTI conference

Volunteered to work HASTI conference 2017-2023

District 7 Director 2021-2024

Additional Activities and Honors

CASA volunteer for Daviess County Indiana 2016-Present

Our Community Foundation advisory board 2020-Present

Advancement Chairman for Boy Scout Troop 481 Odon, IN 2010-Present Board Member of Loogootee Christian Church 2012-Present

6 week NSF summer workshop on Evolution and Nature of Science at I.U. Bloomington 1990

8 week NSF summer workshop on New Biology at I.U. Bloomington 1989

2 week workshop to improve elementary science and math at I.U. Bloomington 1988

2 week workshop on the best use of computers in the science classroom USI Evansville 1987

2 weeks NSTA workshop to improve science and math teaching at NASA Lewis Research Center in Cleveland, Ohio 1986

Sponsored several students for many years at the International Science Fair, Junior Academy of Science, and Science and Humanities Symposium. Science Olympiad Coach

Saturday Science program coordinator using our high school science club as teachers

Position Statement

I do not think of myself as an old, retired teacher but as a science teacher with lots of experience. I want to share this experience with other teachers by promoting the benefits of being an active member of HASTI. Our professional organization has an annual conference that is a place to share ideas that we take back to the classroom to improve our science teaching skills. The HASTI conference is not only a great learning opportunity but is a place where comrades in teaching can become friends for life.

HASTI professional organization has given so much to my science teaching career. I would consider it a privilege to serve for a second term as the District 7 Director.

**District 9: Brooke Stewart**

Brooke Stewart began her teaching career in 2017 as the high school Life Sciences teacher at South Central Jr-Sr High School in Elizabeth, IN. Since then she has received numerous awards including the NABT Outstanding Biology Teacher of the year award in 2022 and HASTI’s Clyde Motts Memorial Award for Innovative High School Science Teaching in 2022.

Response: As the District 9 Director for HASTI, Brooke will continue to provide PD and serve as a leader for the other science educators in the area.

In addition, as a member of the Board of Directors, I am looking forward to collaborating with other Indiana science teachers. I hope to continue building a community of teachers who can share the ideas and research they are passionate about.