

**WISCONSIN SOCIETY OF SCIENCE TEACHERS
STRATEGIC PLAN
(Revised August 2007)**

MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of the Wisconsin Society of Science Teachers is to promote, support, and improve science education in the state of Wisconsin by providing leadership, advocacy, and programs to enhance the teaching and learning of science.

BELIEFS:

The members and leadership of the Wisconsin Society of Science Teachers believe:

1. The organization provides an important collegial network for its members.
2. The organization should and does provide significant professional development opportunities for its members.
3. The organization should strive to establish a membership that is representative of all teachers of science in Wisconsin.
4. That teachers of science in Wisconsin can assume leadership roles in science education.
5. Teachers of science, with the assistance of the organization, can have a positive influence on public policy decisions that affect science education.
6. The organization can provide significant assistance to the classroom teacher by providing information related to pedagogical techniques, teaching materials, and professional development opportunities.

VISION STATEMENT:

In the preferred future of the Wisconsin Society of Science Teachers, the organization will become a major source of information for teachers of science and will provide numerous opportunities for professional growth and renewal. The Society will become a proactive voice for all those who wish to promote science education in the State of Wisconsin.

STRATEGIC GOALS:

- I. The Wisconsin Society of Science Teachers will increase and diversify its membership and improve the involvement of its members in the life of the organization.
- II. The Wisconsin Society of Science Teachers will design and implement a comprehensive program of professional development, which will provide additional activities, resources, and services.
- III. The Wisconsin Society of Science Teachers will become a major resource regarding science education in Wisconsin.
- IV. The Wisconsin Society of Science Teachers will have a positive influence on legislation and public policy regarding science education in Wisconsin.

ACTION PLANS

I. The Wisconsin Society of Science Teachers will increase and diversify its membership and improve the involvement of its members in the life of the organization.

Sub-Goal I-A: The WSST will institute initiatives to attract and retain new members with the intent of having at least one member in every school building in the State of Wisconsin.

ACTION STEP I-A.1: Board Members will be given ten free memberships per year to give to prospective new members. These memberships will be tracked over a two- year cycle by the membership committee with a report to be given at the Summer Board meeting.

ASSIGNED TO: Board of Directors, Membership Committee

STARTING DATE: August 2006

COMPLETION DATE: August 2008

MEASURE OF SUCCESS: Fifty new members will be enrolled with 50% retention.

ACTION STEP I-A.1a Board members will follow through on their “free memberships” by reporting, with a list of new members at the Summer Board meeting.

ASSIGNED TO: Board of Directors

STARTING DATE: June 2006

COMPLETION DATE: Ongoing

MEASURE OF SUCCESS: A follow-up report given at the 2008 Summer Board meeting on all “free members” signed on during 2006/2007.

ACTION STEP I-A.1b The Board of Directors and the membership committee will follow-up after the Summer Board meeting on all “free members” signed on during the 2006/2007 and 2007/2008 school year. An online survey will be developed and posted on the website.

ASSIGNED TO: Board of Directors, Membership Committee

STARTING DATE: August 2007

**COMP
LETION DATE:** Ongoing

MEASURE OF SUCCESS: The membership committee will submit at the Summer Board meeting a report regarding the results of the survey.

ACTION STEP I-A.2: The chairperson of Awards and Recognition will give free memberships to all awardees who have been recognized at the WSST Spring Conference any teacher of science who becomes nationally board certified.

ASSIGNED TO: Awards and Recognition Committee

STARTING DATE: August 2007

COMPLETION DATE: March 2008

MEASURE OF SUCCESS: All persons recognized as an award winner would also be a WSST member.

ACTION STEP I-A.3: Teacher education institutions will be contacted and a presentation will be given by a WSST contact person regarding the benefits of membership and how it relates to pre-service teachers' PDPs. It will be the responsibility of the Public Relations Committee to ensure that teacher education institutions are represented.

ASSIGNED TO: Board of Directors, Public Relations Committee

STARTING DATE: August 2007

COMPLETION DATE: April 2008

MEASURE OF SUCCESS: A list of teacher education institution contacts will be developed and maintained along with a visit by a designated WSST member. A public relations kit will be distributed.

ACTION STEP I-A.3a: A list of science methods instructors will be maintained for future use and these instructors will be invited to attend the annual WSST conference. If possible, a WSST representative will attend the College Dean's annual meeting.

ASSIGNED TO: Public Relations Committee

STARTING DATE: August 2007

COMPLETION DATE: March 2008

MEASURE OF SUCCESS: A letter will be sent out to all science methods instructors inviting them to the annual WSST conference. A list of science methods instructors at all teacher education institutes in Wisconsin will be submitted at the Conference Board meeting.

ACTION STEP I-A.4 Review and revise the membership package to reflect current educational reforms and distribute to interested parties for promotion of WSST.

ASSIGNED TO: Presidents, Public Relations Committee

STARTING DATE: July 2007

COMPLETION DATE: October 20, 2007

MEASURE OF SUCCESS: A revised membership package will be presented to the Board of Directors at the 2007 Fall Board meeting for approval.

ACTION STEP I-A.4a: Review and update the current membership form.

ASSIGNED TO: Executive Director, Publications Committee

STARTING DATE: August 2007

COMPLETION DATE: August 2008

MEASURE OF SUCCESS: Draft presented at the Fall Board meeting.

Sub-Goal I-B: The WSST will provide information to the membership relative to the duties and responsibilities of officers, board members, and committee chairs. The organization will actively recruit individuals who are willing to take leadership roles in the organization.

ACTION STEP I-B.1: The WSST will conduct an event for members who have no previous experience and who may have an interest in a leadership role in the organization. This event will provide information for potential officers and committee chairs.

ASSIGNED TO: Professional Development Committee, Nominations & Elections Committee, Conference Committee

STARTING DATE: August 2007

COMPLETION DATE: March 2008

MEASURE OF SUCCESS: A leadership event will be planned with a target audience of 20 participants (both invited and those who choose to participate) to be held at the 2008 Spring Conference. Participants' names will be sent to the Nominations committee.

ACTION STEP I-B.2: The Nominations chair will contact the Outreach office to identify those members who have indicated an interest on working on a committee on their membership brochure or conference registration.

ASSIGNED TO: First year president or president elect, Secretary

STARTING DATE: August 2007

COMPLETION DATE: March 2008
MEASURE OF SUCCESS: A list of potential committee members will be developed for use by the first year president or president elect for help in filling committee positions.

Sub-Goal I-C: The WSST presence in the state will be enhanced by providing information about services and programs provided by WSST via Wisconsin State Network (WSN).

ACTION STEP I-C.1: WSST conference information will be distributed to WSN participants.

ASSIGNED TO: First year president or president elect

STARTING DATE: August 2007

COMPLETION DATE: December 2007

MEASURE OF SUCCESS: The information appears in the WSN posting.

II. The Wisconsin Society of Science Teachers will design and implement a comprehensive program of professional development that will provide activities, resources, and services.

Sub-Goal II-A: Based on available needs assessment data, WSST will seek to provide meaningful programs, services, and professional support for its membership.

ACTION STEP II-A.1: WSST will implement standards-based programs that meet the identified member and affiliated needs through a well-managed and well-attended conference.

ASSIGNED TO: Conference Committee

STARTING DATE: August 2007

COMPLETION DATE: March 2008

MEASURE OF SUCCESS: Conference attendees will complete a conference evaluation that is turned into the upcoming conference booth for analysis.

ACTION STEP II-A.2: WSST will develop and sponsor professional development opportunities that are tied to the teaching standards. These will be conducted at the annual conference, academies, or other professional settings. WSST will attempt to develop partnerships with other organizations to sponsor workshops.

ASSIGNED TO: Professional Development Committee

STARTING DATE: August 2007

COMPLETION DATE: Ongoing
MEASURE OF SUCCESS: At least one professional development opportunity will be offered at each WSST conference.

ACTION STEP II-A.3: WSST will facilitate a pre-conference discussion and post-conference reflection for one workshop via the WSST blog “Lab Table” to pilot sustained professional development.
ASSIGNED TO: Professional Development Committee, Conference Committee
STARTING DATE: January 2008
COMPLETION DATE: May 2008
MEASURE OF SUCCESS: Documentation that the Lab Table was used for the discussion and reflection.

ACTION STEP II-A.4: WSST will publish a well-designed and informative newsletter that will be distributed to all members.
ASSIGNED TO: Publications Committee
STARTING DATE: August 2007
COMPLETION DATE: August 2008
MEASURE OF SUCCESS: At least four newsletters will be published during the 2007-2008 fiscal year.

ACTION STEP II-A.5: The WSST will maintain an interactive website.
ASSIGNED TO: Publications Committee
STARTING DATE: August 2007
COMPLETION DATE: Ongoing
MEASURE OF SUCCESS: The WSST website will be on-line and updated as needed for the entire fiscal year.

ACTION STEP II-A.6: WSST will provide interactive electronic resources on the website including, but no limited to related links, professional development opportunities, and discussions through the blog.
ASSIGNED TO: Board of Directors, Committee Chairs, Publications
STARTING DATE: August 2007

COMPLETION DATE: Ongoing
MEASURE OF SUCCESS: Electronic resources are available on the WSST website, and board members and committee chairs will actively contribute to those resources.

ACTION STEP II-A.7: WSST will provide an exemplary science model and template of a PDP as required by PI-34. These will be available on the website and at the conference.

ASSIGNED TO: Professional Development Committee

STARTING DATE: August 2007

COMPLETION DATE: March 2008

MEASURE OF SUCCESS: The model and template are available online and at the 2008 conference.

ACTION STEP II-A.8 WSST will develop, provide, and maintain a list of National Board Certified Science teachers willing to serve as mentors to National Board candidates.

ASSIGNED TO: Membership Committee

STARTING DATE: August 2007

COMPLETION DATE: Ongoing

MEASURE OF SUCCESS: Establish a list and provide it to National Board Candidates.

ACTION STEP II-A.8a: WSST will solicit National Board Certified Teachers to present a session at the WSST conference about becoming Nationally Board certified.

ASSIGNED TO: Membership Committee

STARTING DATE: August 2007

COMPLETION DATE: March 2008

MEASURE OF SUCCESS: At least one (1) session will be presented at the conference.

Sub-Goal II-B: The WSST will maintain a listing of professional development opportunities for teachers.

ACTION STEP II-B.1: WSST will maintain a listing of professional development activities tied to the teaching standards that are available to teachers. This information will be disseminated through WSST publications and website.

ASSIGNED TO: Publications Committee
STARTING DATE: August 2007
COMPLETION DATE: August 2008
MEASURE OF SUCCESS: Announcements of professional development activities will be prepared and the information regularly published.

III. The Wisconsin Society of Science Teachers will become a major resource regarding science education in Wisconsin.

Sub-Goal III-A: The Wisconsin Society of Science Teachers will maintain current position statements and bring forth to the board any new or revised position statements consistent with the mission of improving science education in Wisconsin. The Board of Directors will adopt those position statements as an operating philosophy to be followed in making official public statements.

ACTION STEP III-A.1: The document review committee will maintain the position statements adopted by the WSST. All members may suggest for review any new or revised position statements from organizations relative to science issues that are consistent with the mission of the organization.

ASSIGNED TO: Document Review Committee
STARTING DATE: August 2007
COMPLETION DATE: August 2008
MEASURE OF SUCCESS: The document review committee will present any new or revised position statements to the WSST Board for adoption at the summer board meeting.

ACTION STEP III-A.2: Position statements will be available to all WSST members and other parties.

ASSIGNED TO: Document Review Committee, Publications Committee
STARTING DATE: August 2007
COMPLETION DATE: August 2008
MEASURE OF SUCCESS: Position statements officially adopted by the organization will be referenced in the newsletter and linked from the WSST website.

Sub-Goal III-B: The officers will maintain active communication with parties such as DPI, NSTA, state and federal governments, liaisons, and affiliates and other science education organizations.

ACTION STEP III-B.1: A record of communications will be kept to assure that communication with these organizations happens as needed.

ASSIGNED TO: Presidents, Executive Director, WSST liaison
STARTING DATE: August 2007
COMPLETION DATE: August 2008
MEASURE OF SUCCESS: A summary of communications will be provided upon request.

Sub-Goal III-C: The WSST will develop a presence in every school building in the state of Wisconsin.

ACTION STEP III-C.1: The WSST will work in cooperation with other science education organizations to build and maintain the Wisconsin Science Network ("building a presence" program) which will seek to establish a member contact in every Wisconsin school building.

ASSIGNED TO: Board of Directors, Membership Committee
STARTING DATE: August 2007
COMPLETION DATE: On-going
MEASURE OF SUCCESS: By June 2008 there will be at least one contact person in every Wisconsin school building.

Sub-Goal III-D: The WSST will enhance its image by more effectively publicizing Foundation Grants.

ACTION STEP III-D.1: The WSST will increase the number of WSST Foundation Grant requests by implementing an effective advertising campaign.

ASSIGNED TO: Foundations Committee, Public Relations Committee, Publications Committee, Board of Directors
STARTING DATE: August 2007
COMPLETION DATE: August 2008
MEASURE OF SUCCESS: WSST Foundation Grants will be awarded to the maximum allowable by Foundation bylaws. There will be an increase in the number of applications for these Foundation grants as compared to last year. A thank-you will be sent to all applicants. Copies of applications for grants will be at the WSST website.

IV. The Wisconsin Society of Science Teachers will have a positive influence on legislation and public policy regarding science education in Wisconsin.

Sub-Goal IV-A: The WSST will advocate (to the extent allowed by law) those policies that are consistent with the mission and goals of the organization.
1. Provide proclamations that advocate the official position of the organization.

2. Maintain a liaison with all levels of government.
3. Communicate to the membership important issues in science education and encourage members to become advocates for policies of the organization.

ACTION STEP IV-A.1: The WSST will continue to distribute relevant and timely information of interest to the science education community.

ASSIGNED TO: President, Publications Committee

STARTING DATE: August 2007

COMPLETION DATE: August 2008

MEASURE OF SUCCESS: A mechanism will be in place that will allow for the timely distribution of documents depicting the official position of the WSST.

ACTION STEP IV-A.2: The WSST will provide members with information about current political developments that may have an impact on science education.

ASSIGNED TO: Publications Committee, Webmaster, WSST Liaison

STARTING DATE: August 2007

COMPLETION DATE: April 2008

MEASURE OF SUCCESS: Political developments having an impact on science education will be available to members. Members will know about the NSTA list serve.

ACTION STEP IV-A.3: Regular sections will be established in WSST publications to:

1. Solicit member input on emerging issues
2. Provide a vehicle to inform the membership of the official position of the WSST relative to issues

ASSIGNED TO: Publications Committee, District Directors

STARTING DATE: August 2007

COMPLETION DATE: August 2008

MEASURE OF SUCCESS: The Newsletter will periodically feature sections that seek member input and opinions as well as clarifying the official position of the WSST. District Directors will inform and encourage feedback from their constituents via email. The WSST website blog “Lab Table” will provide a means for membership input on emerging issues.