

1989

## A Message from Your New State Science Consultant

W. Tony Heiting

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.uni.edu/istj>



Part of the [Science and Mathematics Education Commons](#)

*Let us know how access to this document benefits you*

Copyright © Copyright 1989 by the Iowa Academy of Science

---

### Recommended Citation

Heiting, W. Tony (1989) "A Message from Your New State Science Consultant," *Iowa Science Teachers Journal*: Vol. 26: No. 2, Article 6.

Available at: <https://scholarworks.uni.edu/istj/vol26/iss2/6>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the IAS Journals & Newsletters at UNI ScholarWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in Iowa Science Teachers Journal by an authorized editor of UNI ScholarWorks. For more information, please contact [scholarworks@uni.edu](mailto:scholarworks@uni.edu).

**Offensive Materials Statement:** Materials located in UNI ScholarWorks come from a broad range of sources and time periods. Some of these materials may contain offensive stereotypes, ideas, visuals, or language.

## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR NEW STATE SCIENCE CONSULTANT



This opportunity to introduce myself through the pages of the Iowa Science Teachers Journal causes me to feel a bit of nostalgia. Years ago, I was editor of this journal.

Approximately one month ago, I filled the position of State Science Consultant, replacing Jack Gerlovich, who is now on the faculty at Drake University. For the past 12 years, I was on contract from the University of Iowa to the Iowa Energy Policy Council (now the Energy Bureau of the Department of Natural Resources). During my years with the Energy Office, I served as the

Research/Education Consultant. The past two years, I was in charge of the Conservation Section of the Energy Bureau and administered oil overcharge funds for emerging state projects. During these years, I had the opportunity to work with many of you in developing energy/environmental curriculum, in energy workshops and at energy conferences.

I received a B.A. degree in Zoology from the University of Minnesota, a Masters degree in Science Education from Wichita State University and my Ph.D. in science education from the University of Iowa. During and between this time, I taught science for nine years at the elementary, secondary and college levels. As I mentioned in a letter to the Iowa Council of State Science Supervisors, I hope the experience I have had will make me an effective consultant, but I have a lot to learn in regard to the issues you as science educators feel are important. I welcome your input and cooperation in identifying what priorities we need to be concentrating on in science education in the state of Iowa as well as at the national level.

I have had the opportunity to meet with members of the Iowa Council of State Science Supervisors and attend the Iowa Science Teachers Conference held in Des Moines in October. From these meetings, I have gained a lot of insight, perceptions and concerns that many of you may share. Issues related to standards, required revisions or development of science curriculum, safety in classrooms and labs and restructuring of the Area Education Agencies all appear to be of prominent interest at this time. I will attempt to quickly develop as much expertise as possible in these areas so that I can provide guidance and answers to questions you might have and be in a position to relate these requirements and changes in science education in our state.

It has not taken long for me to realize that I cannot possibly accommodate all the requests (inservices, information, meetings, committees) that are asked of this position. Consequently, I intend to

work closely with the local and Area Education Agency science coordinators/consultants in providing the services you may request. I will also work closely with the science education faculties at our colleges and universities to make sure you are aware of the science education programs and enrichment opportunities that could enhance your instruction and science programs.

As you are aware, the quality and quantity of the scientists and science teachers that are coming out of our schools is a national concern. The scientific literacy of the non-science students in this country also leaves much to be desired. While I suspect Iowa, with its quality of education and teachers, is much better off than most states, this does not mean we as science educators should not constantly endeavor to make adjustments and changes that will improve science education in our state and country. I look forward to working with you in making this happen.

W. Tony Heiting  
State Science Consultant  
Grimes State Office Building  
Capitol Complex  
Des Moines, IA 50319  
ph. (515) 281-3249