

## ISTA Association Election Application For Region 4

### Ken Wester

School where you teach: Illinois State University in Normal

Education Degrees: B.S. Biological Engineering at Mississippi State University (1984); M.Ed. Secondary Science from Mississippi State University (1988); Ed.S in Secondary Science, University of Alabama (2004)

Professional Affiliations: ISTA; ISAAPT; NSTA; AAPT; MSTA

### Awards and Recognition

- Star Teacher (several times)
- Outstanding Young Educator, 1986
- D.O.E. Teacher Research Associate 1991
- 1991 Distinguished Science Teacher Award, presented by the Mississippi Science Teachers Association
- 1993 Tandy Technology Scholars National Winner
- NSTA certification in physics
- 1993 Presidential Award for Excellence in Science and Mathematics Teaching, (State Awardee)
- 1993 Presidential Award for Excellence in Science and Mathematics Teaching
- 1993 Christa McAuliffe Fellow
- 1993 Outstanding High School Science Teacher (presented by MSTA)
- 1995 E. Scott Barr award for excellence in physics teaching, presented by the University of Alabama
- 1999 Received National Board Certification in Science
- 2000 Mississippi Master Hall of Teachers finalist
- 2001 Outstanding Mississippi High School Physics Teacher
- 2001 Lead Teacher Project Quark Net, University of Mississippi
- 2002 Selected as an OME (online Museum Educator), Franklin Institute
- 2005 Inducted into the Mississippi Hall of Master Teachers

### Work Experience:

2008 – Present: Director, Physics Teacher Education Program, Illinois State University

1989 – 2008: Physics Teacher, Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science

1994 – 1989: Physics, Chemistry, Biology Teacher, Houston High School, Houston MS

### Additional Experience:

- Board Member, Mississippi Science Teachers Association, 1994-present,
  - served as Program Chair
- Past Board Member, Mississippi Association of Physicists, 1989 – 2000
- Committee member, Mississippi Science Framework Revision
- Presentations made at numerous MSTA, ISTA, ISAAPT, AAPT, NSTA Conferences
- Past members of NSTA and APPT Standing Committees
- Past member Mississippi Project 2061 Benchmark Review Committee
- Coordinated/presented workshops for National Board Certification
- Regional Leader Local Physical Science Alliance, Central Illinois

**Rationale for Serving**

As an educator I have always recognized the importance of meaningful professional development/growth. Initially being a participant/member of professional organizations, I soon moved into leadership roles. Through my experience as a high school teacher, an education educator and as a leader in various professional organizations I have become knowledgeable about professional development. I have an intrinsic desire to help professional organizations, especially ISTA meet the needs of teachers throughout the state. Through my experience and desire to excel, I feel I have much to offer ISTA and that ISTA has much to offer me.