

Outstanding Leadership in Science Education

Since 1979, this prestigious award recognizes and honors an NSELA member, who through professional work, has demonstrated outstanding leadership in science education at the school, county, regional and/or national level. This year the \$1000 award and plaque will be presented to Dr. Meredith Bell virtually during the NSELA Leadership Summit on May 13 and during the Summer Leadership Institute in July.



Dr. Meredith Bell

*Secondary Science
Curriculum Designer
Prosper ISD*

Dr. Meredith Bell is an incredible science/STEM leader for her district, Texas, and the nation. Her career path began in a genetics research lab. Her passion for sharing the love of science with others led to teaching high school physics, launching an AP Physics program, and becoming the Secondary Science Curriculum Designer for Prosper ISD. A quote from Meredith: “The beauty of leadership is that anyone can lead, from any position, with any title. My own leadership focus is to provide support, build capacity, and advocate for changes that result in an authentic science education for all. My roles have varied over time, but my goal to build future generations of scientists and science advocates has remained the same.”

Dr. Bell’s exemplary leadership began in 2006. Here are some examples of her many stellar accomplishments. As an AP Physics teacher, a focus to increased female enrollment from 10 to 50 percent was successful, and many of these students later pursued advanced degrees and careers in STEM. In her current district work, Dr. Bell collaborates with teachers to design curriculum documents using the Understanding by Design philosophy that is student-centered and inquiry-based with a focus on high levels of application. She participates in and supports professional learning communities that include teachers, campus administrators, directors, and other members of the design team. Through advocacy to drive change for Texas science education, Dr. Bell is making an impact at the state level. As a member of a coalition of science education leaders, she provided testimony to the Texas State Board of Education advocating for the use of *A Framework for K-12 Science Education* and the *Next Generation Science Standards* as primary resources during the revision of the Texas science standards. In 2020, she was appointed to both the high school physics and middle school science Texas standards work groups.

Dr. Bell is active with several science organizations including MASS, STAT, TSELA, NSELA, and NSTA, where she works to educate, collaborate and advocate for improved science education. For the Conference for the Advancement of Science Teaching, she has served as a proposal reviewer, steering committee member, presenter, and volunteer. She served on the Sci-Tech Discovery Center Board of Directors and was also an AP Physics Reader for the College Board. An example of her many recent professional co-presentations is: *Advocacy in Science Education*. Further, Dr. Bell has co-authored two publications that address specific science areas involving global collaboration that enhances technological literacy and the topic of 21st century science.

NSELA is proud to present the 2021 OLISE Award to Dr. Meredith Bell. She is an exemplary role model for science/STEM leaders and continues her own learning journey to improve access to an engaging, meaningful science education for all students.