

Keynote Address

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**Releasing professional power: Leading from the classroom**

In the late 1990s, ASTA was at forefront in the development of professional standards for highly accomplished science teaching. This presentation reviews the work that ASTA conducted in developing standards and methods by which teachers could demonstrate that they had met those standards. This work laid a foundation on which ASTA could providing a certification system to give recognition to science teachers as they reached those standards and thereby play a much more significant role in the professional development of its members.

Last year the National Institute for Quality Teaching and School Leadership (NIQTSL) was established. Part of its stated brief is to develop a system for giving recognition to all teachers who reached high standards of classroom practice. This presentation examines how NIQTSL and professional organizations like ASTA may work together in the future to provide a powerful base for a new kind of professional leadership in teaching.