

Plenary Speakers

Wednesday, August 1, 2012

Dr. Stephen Pruitt

8:15 AM – 9:15 AM Eisenhower Auditorium

Developing the Next Generation Science Standards



The first public draft and review period for the *Next Generation Science Standards* (NGSS) is complete and revisions are underway. This informational session will provide an update on the development of these standards, including process and timeline for release of drafts and final documents, how science educators can be involved, and implications for science teaching.

With private funding from the Carnegie Corporation, the National Research Council (NRC) and Achieve, Inc., with support from NSTA and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), have embarked on a two-step cooperative process to develop the next generation science standards. The first step was to develop a conceptual framework that is grounded in current research on science and science learning and identifies the science all K–12 students should know. NRC is conducting released the *Framework for K-12 Science Education* in July of 2011. The next step is the development of the actual standards, a process led by Achieve involving science experts, science teachers, states, and other science education partners. This two-step process takes a broader and more cooperative approach to the development of science standards. The NGSS are due for completion in early 2013.

Stephen Pruitt was named Vice President for Content, Research and Development at Achieve, Inc. in November of 2010. He joined Achieve as the Director of Science in July of 2010. In addition to his new role, he will continue to lead the development of the Next Generation Science Standards. Stephen began his career as a high school Chemistry teacher in Georgia, where he taught for 12 years. In 2003, he joined the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) as the Program Manager for Science. He served in that role for four years before becoming Director of Academic Standards, where he oversaw the continued implementation of the Georgia Performance Standards in all content areas. In 2008 he became the Associate Superintendent of Assessment and Accountability, responsible for directing all state assessments and overseeing the No Child Left Behind accountability process. In April 2009, Stephen became Chief of Staff to State School Superintendent Kathy Cox, coordinating the work of the agency and a variety of projects such as Georgia's third-ranked Race to the Top application. In addition to his state-level work, Stephen also served as President of the Council of State Science Supervisors and a member of the writing team for the College Board's *Standards for College Success* Science Standards. Most recently, he served on the National Academies of Science's Committee on Conceptual Framework for New Science Education Standards, which is developing the framework for the Next Generation Science Education Standards. A native Georgian, Stephen earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry from North Georgia College and State University, a master's in science education from the University of West Georgia, and a doctorate of philosophy in chemistry education from Auburn University.