

# Daniel Allen:

## Candidate for Nominating Committee

**Affiliation:** Lake Land College

**Position/Title:** Instructor

**MS institution:** Brigham Young University, 2010

**Areas of scientific interest:**

Planetary science; Astronomy; Planetary volcanism; Science education and outreach

**AAS and/or Division leadership positions and dates:**

- n/a

**Other relevant positions, experience, and dates:**

- Fellow, 2013 – 2015, University of Wyoming Science Posse (science outreach organization affiliated with the University of Wyoming)
- Co-coordinator, 2019 – present, Riddle Elementary School Science Club

**Statement:**

I believe everyone is a scientist. We all use our own experience and reasoning to solve problems. As a member of the Science Posse at the University of Wyoming, I focused on this concept when sharing my love of science with people all across Wyoming. In my current classes, I teach this same concept and help my students further develop their scientific literacy. I also try to instill a love and understanding of science with the students at Riddle Elementary School through outreach activities. In our increasingly technical world where STEM careers are projected to grow, seeing yourself as a scientist and having an understanding of it are vital.

The American Astronomical Society (AAS) can play a crucial role in educating the public about the importance of science and scientific thinking because astronomy and the Universe are subjects that capture the attention and imagination of nearly everyone. The night sky is a wondrous thing that everyone can access freely! As a member of the nominating committee, I will look for candidates who share my love for scientific outreach and who understand the role AAS can play in educating the public. I believe scientific outreach should be an activity of every working scientist and member of the AAS. If you can teach a difficult scientific principle to a classroom of eight year olds, you can teach it to anyone. Career scientists have access to data

and networks that are not always available to citizen scientists or the general public, and we have the privilege and duty to share what we know with others. By sharing what we know and love, we can show that science is accessible and important for all and demonstrate that all are scientists.