

Dawn M. Gelino: Candidate for Vice-President

Affiliation: Caltech/IPAC-NExSci

Position/Title: Deputy Director, NASA Exoplanet Science Institute

PhD institution: New Mexico State University, 2001

Areas of scientific interest:

- Exoplanets
- Compact objects
- Enabling diversity, equity, inclusivity, and accessibility in the scientific community
- Supporting early career and marginalized scientists

AAS and/or Division leadership positions and dates:

- Member, eBooks Board, American Astronomical Society, 2016 – 2022
- Member, Publications Committee, American Astronomical Society, 2016 – 2021
- Member, Council (now Board of Trustees), American Astronomical Society, 2013 – 2016
- Member, Journals Future Task Force, American Astronomical Society, 2014

Other relevant positions, experience, and dates:

- Co-Lead, NASA Hubble Fellowship Program (NHFP), 2017 – present
- Co-Lead, Nexus for Exoplanetary System Science (NExSS), NASA, 2015 – present
- NASA Operations Scientist, Keck Observatory, 2008 – present
- Chair/Member, Science Organizing Committee/Local Organizing Committee for 40+ international astrophysics meetings, 2007 – present
- Exhibitor, Meetings of the American Astronomical Society and the Society's Division for Planetary Sciences, 2004 – present
- Member, Board of Directors, Astrophysics Data Systems (ADS), Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory/NASA, 2018 – 2021
- Inaugural Fellow, American Astronomical Society, 2020
- Workshop Co-Organizer and Panel Member, "Careers 101: Career Planning Workshop for Graduate Students and Postdocs", Meetings of the American Astronomical Society, 2012 – 2020
- Recipient, NASA Exceptional Public Service Medal – Science Community Support, 2017

Statement:



To say that the last few years have been challenging times of change is an understatement. From the pandemic to the #MeToo movement, there has been so much for all of us to process and deal with. However, positive changes are resulting from those challenges. We are not there yet, by a long shot, but things are moving in the right direction. We have proven that we are a strong community and I have faith that we will continue moving forward to make our community more inclusive and safe for everyone. If elected for Vice President of the AAS, I will continue to do my best to make that a reality. So, why am I a good candidate for this?

Firstly, I have been deeply involved with the AAS over the years. I have attended almost every AAS and DPS meeting, along with several HEAD meetings since I began graduate school in 1996. I still remember my first big Washington, DC AAS meeting. It was overwhelming as a new graduate student, but the opportunities to network and collaborate at the meeting were, and continue to be, abundant and invaluable.

I've served as part of the then AAS Council (now Board of Trustees), on both the AAS eBooks Board and Publications Committee, an AAS Task Force, countless career workshops, panels, and sessions, and been an exhibitor at every AAS and DPS meeting since 2004. As part of my job at NExSci, I have also run many scientific meetings, including AAS Topical Conference Series, and some that were fully hybrid (with low or no registration fees). As such, I am very familiar with just about every aspect of the AAS and its meetings, which is an essential aspect of executing the position of an effective AAS Vice President.

Secondly, thanks in part to my work on the NASA Hubble Fellowship Program (NHFP), NASA's Nexus for Exoplanetary System Science (NExSS) initiative, and the administration of NASA's time on the Keck telescopes, I have cultivated diverse contacts in many parts of the scientific community, including marginalized ones. I have also interacted with many graduate students and postdocs from the US and abroad. I have become sensitive to their struggles, and have provided opportunities for them to network, collaborate, and learn about available career paths. The job of a VP is not only to pick the speakers for and help run the society's meetings, but also to serve as an advocate for its members. I'll use my experience and contacts in the broader science community to choose truly diverse speakers for meetings, work with the Board of Trustees and the AAS meetings team to lower the barriers (and cost) for ALL to attend AAS meetings, and make community events, including AAS meetings, safe for all.

As Vice President, I would continue to stand up for all of you, as scientists and AAS members, and work to provide additional opportunities for networking and to make the AAS as inclusive and safe from harassment as possible.