

Richard Green: Candidate for President

Affiliation: Steward Observatory, University of Arizona

Position/Title: Astronomer & Assistant Director of Government Relations

PhD institution: California Institute of Technology, 1977

Areas of scientific interest:

- Quasar demographics
- Quasar spectral energy distributions
- Supermassive black hole mass determinations
- Policy for dark and quiet sky protection



AAS and/or Division leadership positions and dates:

- Co-Chair, Policy Subgroup, Committee on Light Pollution, Radio Interference, and Space Debris, American Astronomical Society, 2022 – present
- Member, Committee on Light Pollution, Radio Interference, and Space Debris, American Astronomical Society, 2017 – present
- Member, Committee on Astronomy and Public Policy (CAPP), American Astronomical Society, 2022 – present
- Inaugural Fellow, American Astronomical Society, 2020
- Chair, Publications Board & Member of Council (now Board of Trustees), American Astronomical Society, 2009 – 2012
- Member, Publications Board, American Astronomical Society, 2004 – 2009

Other relevant positions, experience, and dates:

- Interim Director, NOIRLab US Extremely Large Telescope Program, 2022 – present
- Co-Lead, Policy Hub, Centre for Protection against Satellite Constellation Interference (CPS), International Astronomical Union, 2022 – present
- Division Director, Astronomy Division, National Science Foundation, 2017 – 2019
- President, Commission on Astronomical Site Protection, International Astronomical Union, 2012 – 2018
- Member, Commission on Astronomical Site Protection, International Astronomical Union, 2009 – present
- Chair, Board of Directors, Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy (AURA), 2014 – 2017

- Member, Board of Directors, Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy (AURA), 2011 – 2014
- Chair, Oversight Council for Gemini, Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy (AURA), 2011 – 2014
- Member, Oversight Council for Gemini, Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy (AURA), 2009 – 2014
- Director, Large Binocular Telescope Observatory, 2005 – 2013
- Director, Kitt Peak National Observatory, 1997 – 2005
- Member, Far Ultraviolet Spectroscopic Explorer (FUSE) Science Team, 1981 – 2003
- Fellow, American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), 2002 – present
- Member, Hubble Space Telescope's Space Telescope Imaging Spectrograph (HST STIS) Instrument Definition Team, 1982 – 2002
- Deputy Director, National Optical Astronomy Observatory (NOAO), 1994 – 1999

Statement:

We as astronomers are experiencing a time of extraordinary opportunity and unprecedented challenge. We revel in the discoveries flowing from the newly and successfully completed JWST and DKIST observatories. We marvel at the increasing fidelity of complex astrophysical simulations and insights from Big Data. We anticipate the treasure of data from the Vera Rubin and Nancy Grace Roman Observatories, SPHEREx and other exciting new facilities. And we appreciate the interactions with the amateur community and the growing appetite of the public to share in our discoveries and support our research.

Astronomy has been a leading discipline in recognizing the challenges of bringing the reality of our professional lives to meet our aspirations of a working culture that is respectful, tolerant and inclusive, moving our community toward the reflection of and benefit from the true diversity of our nation's population. We have just produced a Decadal Survey that is visionary and ambitious, requiring a substantial investment over time to realize its goals. Therefore, while we are benefiting from major recent investments, we must advocate for renewed investment in person power and facilities to assure a competitive long-term future. Our endeavors are also strongly impacted by the revolutionary commercialization of space and expansion of human activity everywhere on the globe. Observational access to a naturally dark and radio-quiet sky is no longer a given; mitigations require proactive engagement.

I am honored that you would consider me to lead the AAS. My goal would be to maintain and build on the strengths of our Society:

- To enable our scientific communications both professionally and with the public through continuing excellence in publications and meetings
- To conduct meetings and host professional interactions that serve as models of inclusivity and support

- To advocate effectively for the bipartisan support to funding agencies to realize the recommendations of the Decadal Survey for space, ground, theory, data, lab and state of the profession
- To catalyze the proactive engagement with industry and local and national policy makers for the protection of dark and quiet skies
- To provide useful guidance for career development for the many related paths taken by PhDs in astronomy and astrophysics
- To address the need to balance the high value of in-person interactions with long-term sustainability concerns of the Society
- To make your elected and appointed AAS volunteers justifiably feel that they have made a positive difference through their substantial efforts.

From my earlier participation in two NASA mission science teams through my recent service as NSF Astronomy Division Director, I have learned to appreciate the breadth of research interests of our community and stand in awe at the depth of talent and commitment. We expect and deserve a professional society that continues to represent our interests and enable our interactions with the highest degree of professionalism and integrity. I promise you my energy and commitment to AAS leadership that meets those expectations.