

# Edwin (Ted) Bergin

## Candidate for Vice President

**Affiliation:** University of Michigan

**Position/Title:** Professor and Chair of Astronomy

**PhD institution:** University of Massachusetts, 1995

**Areas of scientific interest:**

- Astrochemistry
- Star and Planet Formation
- Exoplanetary Composition
- Solar System Composition (planets, asteroids, comets)

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

- Member, Code of Ethics Committee, American Astronomical Society, 2022 – present

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

- President Emeritus, Commission H2: Astrochemistry, International Astronomical Union, 2021 – present
- Member, ngVLA Science Advisory Committee, 2021 – present
- President, Commission H2: Astrochemistry, International Astronomical Union, 2018 – 2021
- Legacy Fellow, American Astronomical Society, 2019
- Member, STRIDE Committee, University of Michigan, 2014 – 2019
- Member, ALMA North American Science Advisory Committee, 2011 – 2014
- Member, Users Committee, NRAO, 2009 – 2011

**Statement:**

It is an honor to be nominated to serve you as a Vice President of the American Astronomical Society. We live in an amazing time for Astronomical science with unbelievable facilities that are capturing the public's imagination. At the same time our field is becoming ever more diverse and we are facing challenges in navigating towards a more inclusive environment. For nearly the past decade I have served as department chair for an Astronomy department at a major public University. As chair, I have been on the frontlines. I have seen the successes and the challenges of our field. One amazing aspect is the near exponential growth of our undergraduate astronomy majors. This is exciting for the field but requires major changes in how we train the next generation of astronomers. The AAS has strongly supported educational



and training efforts at all levels. As vice president I will work with the board to continue this support and help us unify to share knowledge between departments and institutions.

I have also dedicated a significant portion of my career towards expanding diversity and inclusion within my field. Here I rely on my experience as chair but also through education as a member of the STRIDE committee at the University of Michigan. STRIDE stands for “Strategies and Tactics for Recruiting in Diversity and Excellence”. As part of the committee, we educate ourselves to literature regarding bias over a range of areas. Committee members manage and are presenters in University of Michigan 2-hour workshops designed to educate faculty on the false dichotomy between diversity and excellence alongside the presence and effects of implicit bias. In the workshops, we also provide best practices for recruiting in diversity and excellence. During my time on STRIDE but also today, I have offered this workshop to multiple Astronomy Departments throughout the world. I have taken this knowledge to heart towards working together for inclusive change in my department and beyond. This includes AAS meetings where I have served on several panels that seek to share knowledge to address today’s challenges.

As a representative of the ethics committee, I have attended the past two strategic assembly meetings. I have seen the sincere efforts by our peers to chart a strong course for our society toward the future. If elected I will help to foster AAS meetings that continue to be showcases for our science and scientists. At the same time, we are demanding so much more of our scientists than just astronomical research. As such, I will work towards enabling dedicated times where career development workshops can be held to help each generation continue to learn and grow. I firmly believe in my field and am proud to be a member of the American Astronomical Society. I am grateful to be on this ballot and, if elected, to serve on your behalf.