

# Seth Redfield

## Candidate for At-Large Trustee

**Affiliation:** Wesleyan University

**Position/Title:** Professor of Astronomy

**PhD institution:** University of Colorado at Boulder, 2003

**Areas of scientific interest:**

Local interstellar medium; Exoplanet atmospheres; Nearby stars and planetary systems; UV/optical high-resolution spectroscopy



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

- At-Large Trustee, Board of Trustees, American Astronomical Society, 2025 – present
- Member, Graduate Admissions Task Force, American Astronomical Society, 2024 – 2025
- Member, Working Group for Graduate Admission as part of the AAS Task Force on Diversity and Inclusion in Astronomy Graduate Education, American Astronomical Society, 2018 – 2019
- Participant, Communicating with Washington Congressional Visit Program, American Astronomical Society, 2013
- Chair, Annie Jump Cannon Award Selection Committee, American Astronomical Society, 2013
- Member, Annie Jump Cannon Award Selection Committee, American Astronomical Society, 2011 – 2012

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

- Member Representative, Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy (AURA), for the Keck Northeast Astronomy Consortium (KNAC), 2018 – present
- Member, AURA Science Advisory Committee, 2023 – present
- Chair, Space Telescope Science Institute (STScI) Working Group on Strategic Exoplanet Initiatives with HST and JWST, 2023 – 2024
- Science Team Member, New Horizons Extended Mission, 2022 – present
- Director, College of Integrative Sciences, Wesleyan University, 2021 – 2024
- Member, Committee of Visitors, National Science Foundation, 2019
- Chair, Astronomy Department, Wesleyan University, 2017 – 2020
- PI, Keck Northeast Astronomy Consortium REU Site, National Science Foundation, 2016 – 2022
- Member, ALTAIR Committee, National Optical Astronomy Observatory, 2008 – 2009

**Statement:**

Thank you for taking the time to vote in the AAS election and look at the candidate statements. I am honored to be nominated and potentially continue to serve as an At-Large Trustee. I have served as an At-Large Trustee in a one-year appointment this year. I have been deeply impressed by the work that our volunteer membership and AAS staff perform for the society. I have served as the Board liaison for the Education Committee and COMPASSE as well as being involved in the Finance Committee and other AAS Board efforts. It would be helpful to serve a standard term as At-Large Trustee to take all that I have learned in this first year and apply it to work for the society in the coming years. The AAS has been a part of my professional life since I was an undergraduate and has been an ever-present resource for me throughout my career. I would be thrilled to serve and support the society in this capacity.

I am a regular AAS meeting attendee. One of my research areas is in a smaller subfield that does not have many topical meetings, so the AAS is critical in bringing this research community together. As someone that works at a principally undergraduate institution, the AAS meetings also provide a tremendous professional benefit to the early career researchers that I work with. Finally, it is important (and fun) to engage with new and old colleagues in fields far from my own, to build community and cohesion particularly for our non-research efforts to support astronomy. I am keen to help the AAS meetings be as effective as possible for our community.

I love researching and teaching at a primarily undergraduate institution and have worked hard to facilitate resources for astronomers across a wide range of institutions. For the last six years, I have served as the AURA Member Representative for the Keck Northeast Astronomy Consortium, a collection of eight primarily undergraduate institutions with active astronomy research programs for which I have taken a leadership role. It has been valuable to have the experiences and voices of researchers at these smaller institutions present in the room with some of the largest and most sophisticated observatories and research centers. I am interested in bringing this perspective to the AAS and facilitating engagement across a broad range of astronomy institutions.

Finally, another axis for which I feel the AAS is a strong leader, is in the support of cross-disciplinary efforts in research and in the profession. Given our relatively small size, commonality in underlying physics, and shared observational facilities, astronomy has benefited from a cohesion in our community that is stronger than other natural sciences. Our cohesion makes us a uniting force and is what gives us a powerful voice as educators and mentors, even in the face of uncertainty. Thank you again for your time and I hope to see you at a AAS meeting soon.