Intensive planning has begun for the special opportunities that will be organized for the first collaborative annual conference for teachers of science and their professional organizations. Vital to the planning for this conference is the full support and participation of the network of the Illinois informal science education community. The expertise and resources of this very special learning community will be absolutely necessary to the success of our conference.

We ask that you and your colleagues consider how we can collaborate together in the most effective ways, already framed traditionally and possibly not even imagined yet. Please consider the following options for session presentations, workshops and tours, hosting Friday evening Gala or sponsoring events. Please suggest additional ideas that can help us help the teachers of science in Illinois more.

- **Thursday evening, welcoming reception at TP Conference Center** as teachers arrive from their busy school days, and as our exhibitors have completed the set-up of their booths; 5 pm – 8 pm; hors d'oeuvres will be served.
  - Current plans include the mingling of scientists to meet and chat with teachers, as they tour the exhibit area with the latest advances in materials and equipment.
  - **Suggestions (names/contact information) sought for possible participating scientists and leaders; invitations will be sent immediately.**
  - **Reception sponsor(s) are sought**; details available through Harry Hendrickson, ISTA Executive Director.

- **Friday Daytime Sessions**---generally 50-minute sessions, beginning at 8 am, concluding by 5 pm; lunchtime break from 11 am – 1 pm;
  - Eighteen session rooms are available for six sessions; Call for Presentations posted at www.ista-il.org, beginning March 15.
  - Presidents Luncheon, hosted by presidents of ISTA, IACT, IS-and CS-AAPT; invited speaker: Governor Pat Quinn.
  - Luncheon sponsor(s) sought.

- **Friday evening Gala—Location and focus open for off-site reception with food and entertainment.**
  - Transportation will be provided; registration required. Recent past experience for approximately 200 participants at Lakeview Planetarium in Peoria, Illinois State Museum in Springfield

- **Saturday morning Breakfasts for General Membership Meetings: sponsors sought**

- **Saturday Workshops and Tours: IDEAS NEEDED**
  - Off-site transportation will be provided through ISTA and allow for use of personal vehicles; pre-registration required; tours may be 2-3 hours in duration or longer; Conference will end officially after morning membership meetings; no sessions scheduled for afternoon return. (Organizational board meetings will be scheduled, however.)
  - Options will be discussed individually. Confirmation of sites and sessions will be needed by March 25 for opening of pre-registration; cancellations will not be made until October 1.
  - Special weekend options could be offered to attendees (and their families) for Sunday opportunities, which will be organized by hosting site and advertised through ISEC conference program and registration materials.
Special opportunities for pre-service candidates in science education (including elementary education):

- Teacher-educators are asked to organize special opportunities for their pre-service candidates in science education to attend and fully participate in the ISEC conference as ISTA members at the reduced rate of $30. Sessions will be organized for showcases of student work, coordinated collaboratively by interested teacher-educators with Dr. Steph Marlette.

- Teacher-educators are invited to recruit potential presiders and monitors for conference sessions from among their pre-service candidates, for which there will be a brief orientation for their three-hour commitment to responsibilities in exchange for significantly reduced ($0!) registration fees. Students will apply online for the expected 36 positions, which will open September 1.

Please contact Gwen Pollock, ISEC Conference Chairperson, gpollock@casscomm.com; 217/629-7791 or Harry Hendrickson, hrhendrickson@comcast.net; 217-498-8411.