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November 8, 2007

Dear Science Educators,

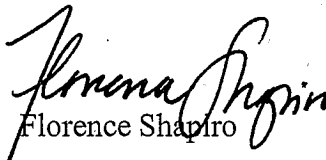
As Chair of the Senate Committee on Education, I am pleased to welcome each of you to Austin and to salute you for your participation in the 50th Annual Conference on Advancement of Science Teaching. Science education is a fundamental requirement for every young Texan, and the work you do in providing quality science education for your students helps ensure the future success of your students and the state.

As a former public school teacher, I can remember the daily challenges of the classroom. But what I remember more fondly is that "Aha!" moment — that glorious turning point when a class went from passive listening to active learning as investigators and participants in the subject. For Texas to thrive in the future, that "Aha!" moment for students in science must happen more and more. This is why your commitment to educating your students is so important.

At CAST 2007, you will be surrounded by 6,000 of the finest science teachers and administrators in this state. I hope as you attend the packed schedule of lectures, workshops, and speeches, you will get a chance to step back and marvel at the breadth of knowledge and dedication that the members of the Science Teacher's Association of Texas have been bringing to science teachers and administrators for the past 50 years.

On behalf of all Texans, let me thank you again for promoting world-class science education in this state. Best wishes on an engaging and enlightening conference that will help you motivate and excite your students.

Very truly yours,


Florence Shapiro