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1998 President's Report

Greetings and Happy New Year to all! I hope that 1999 will be an even better year than 1998 for all of you and for NABT. The experience of being your President was a distinct privilege and honor and a most incredible opportunity for service and growth. For this I would like to thank each and every one of you. Since communication is so vital to the success and growth of NABT, I greatly appreciated receiving the ideas, suggestions, and progress reports from so many of you. The office of the President would be overwhelming for any one person without the support and help from many people and to all of you I owe a debt of gratitude. I especially want to thank the Executive Director and the incredible NABT staff at the Reston office. They are a dedicated and supportive team of people and it has been my great pleasure to work with them. Thank you also to our board of directors, a most knowledgeable and dedicated group, for contributing their boundless energy and wise leadership to NABT. Special thanks to our Regional Coordinators, State and Province Representatives, and OBTA Directors for their countless hours of work on behalf of the membership of NABT. And many thanks to the committee and section chairs and members for their contributions and ongoing dedication to our organization. Above all, I thank all of you for your continuing support and participation. All of us, together, are the NABT and our combined knowledge and expertise make our organization The Leader in Life Science Education.

1998 marked the 60th anniversary of NABT as a formal group and I'm delighted to share some of the year's highlights with you. We began our anniversary celebration on the East Coast with a spring symposium, "The New Biology of the Brain: Learning About Learning." This meeting featured research by neuroscientists and cognitive psychologists with working sessions aimed at classroom implementation and assessment. We ended our year-long celebration on the West Coast with NABT's annual convention, themed "Strike It Rich in Reno," which served our entire membership with both general sessions and those specific for elementary, middle school/junior high, high school, two-year and four-year college educators.

The NABT continued to demonstrate its leadership in life science education during 1998. As part of our NSF grant, "Encouraging High School Student Research in Biology Through Teacher-Scientist Partnerships," NABT conducted workshops for teachers in Seattle, Reno and Albuquerque, and the teacher-leaders who field tested the experiments also conducted in-service workshops for other teachers. Nine regional workshops were also held for *Biotechnology on a Shoestring*, the NABT/LTI grant project. The hands-on community outreach activities for the "Microbial Literacy Collaborative," a partnership between the American Society for Microbiology and NABT, were field-tested and exhibited at community outreach conferences and meetings in Edmonton, Seattle, Reno and Albuquerque.

Our national and international impact on life science education continued with NABT's journal, *The American Biology Teacher*. The *ABT*, in competition with such publications as *National Geographic*, won two national 1998 EdPress awards and was indicated as the most widely read of all discipline-specific journals, according to a survey of NSTA convention attendees. Our Web site (www.nabt.org) continues to grow and develop a worldwide presence in parallel with the evolution of the Internet as the international medium of communication. Our newly redesigned site contains more content and additional interactivity, and for the first time new members are able to obtain membership forms on-line.

1998 also marked the culmination of a three-year effort by all of us, with the adoption of the NABT Strategic Plan: Vision for a New Millennium of Life Science Education. Our mission statement, four goals, and master strategies for each goal provide a roadmap for NABT to continue its successful growth as a vital organization to meet the needs of teachers and learners of the life sciences now and into the 21st Century.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your President, and for your continuing friendship and ongoing support during the past year. I look forward to the future, our implementation of the Strategic Plan, and NABT's continuing leadership and support for biology educators worldwide.

VivianLee Ward