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As President of the Arizona Science Teachers Association, and on behalf of the 2009 Phoenix Area Conference Planning Committee, I would like to invite you and your fellow science teachers to Arizona for what promises to be an extraordinary NSTA conference. Please share this invitation with your membership through newsletters, websites, listservs, etc.

The Valley of the Sun is a perfect place, with beautiful weather and stunning sunsets. Reminiscent of the mythical bird for which it is named, a revitalized downtown Phoenix is developing into a great conference destination with a new convention center, a science center featuring a state-of-the-art planetarium, new hotels, art galleries, and museums all within walking distance.

Whether a first-timer or veteran conference attendee, you are sure to experience professional learning that will rejuvenate and transform your science teaching. We are planning a wide range of unique and engaging sessions, field trips, meetings, and presentations designed to bring together a wealth of research, teaching strategies, and networking opportunities that will provide the foundation for our nation's renewed focus on science as more essential than ever before. The resurgence of interest in the sciences has created a sense of urgency across the nation as we are trying to attract students to pursue careers in science. As NSTA members, we are on the leading edge of this revival!

So join us, December 3-5, 2009, as we explore excellence in science education from challenging content to professional relationships at "Phoenix Rising through Rigor, Relevance, and Relationships." Conference information is at: <http://www.nsta.org/conferences/2009pho/?lid=tnavhp>

Mary Lara
President
Arizona Science Teachers Association