

**Virginia Association of Science Teachers  
2021 Virtual Professional Development Institute**

**General Session I  
Tuesday November 16, 6:00 pm – 6:45 pm**



**Dr Don Duggan-Haas**  
Director of Teacher Programming  
The Paleontological Research Institution

**“ It's Too Late. Let's Get to Work Anyway”**

It is too late to prevent horrible consequences of climate change, but when it's too late is when we generally get to work. We ended slavery too late. We stopped Hitler's genocide too late. We got to work on civil rights and getting out of Vietnam too late. We began our response to Covid-19 too late. Being too late doesn't mean that it's too late to do something. It means we're already letting people suffer, but we can prevent future suffering. Addressing climate change is a wicked interdisciplinary problem, and an all-hands-on-deck moment. This session will address key aspects of the physical science of climate change, bring home its massive scale, and delve into the social science that provides different sorts of challenges to teaching and learning climate change than is presented by teaching, for example, photosynthesis.

**Biography**

Don Haas (formerly, Don Duggan-Haas) is the Director of Teacher Programming at The Paleontological Research Institution and its Museum of the Earth & Cayuga Nature Center in Ithaca, NY. Don's work in public outreach, teacher education, teacher professional development and curriculum materials development marries deep understandings of how people learn with deep understandings of the Earth system. He is a past president of the National Association of Geoscience Teachers, and a nationally regarded expert in climate and energy education, place-based and technology-rich Earth and environmental science education. He has led educator professional development programming throughout the US. He also is co-author of the books, *The Teacher-Friendly Guide to Climate Change* and *The Science Beneath the Surface: A Very Short Guide to the Marcellus Shale*. He served on the Earth & Space Science Design Team for the National Research Council's *A Framework for K-12 Science Education: Practices, Crosscutting Concepts, and Core Ideas*. Don has taught at Colgate, Cornell, and Michigan State Universities, the University at Buffalo, Kalamazoo College, and Tapestry and Norwich (New York) High Schools.