

# ATA Science and Technology Division

---

**To:** Board of Directors and Past Presidents  
**From:** Mery Molenaar, Division Administrator  
Heike Holthaus, Division Assistant Administrator  
**Date:** January 1, 2025  
**Re:** ATA Science & Technology Division Status Report January 2025

## Leadership Council & Podcast Team:

- The Science & Technology Division Leadership Council (LC) is currently made up of eight individuals, including the Administrator and Assistant Administrator:

**Mery Molenaar** — Administrator

**Carola Berger** — Webmaster

**Lebzy González** — LinkedIn Manager

**Patrick Weill** — Facebook Admin

**Heike Holthaus** — Assistant Administrator

**Matthew Schlecht** — Listserv Manager

**Gene Hsu** — Blog Editor

**Valeria Verona** — Support Member

## Our Activities in Brief:

- **LC Update:** We have welcomed Patrick Weill to the Leadership Council as our new Facebook Admin. Also, Pavitra Baxi has stepped down from the Leadership Council after many years as Blog Co-editor and X Admin. She and Gene have been working together as Blog Co-Editors, and Gene will now take over the duties as Blog Editor.
- **ATA65 Dinner:** The S&TD dinner at ATA65 on November 1 at McMenamins Broadway Pub was a great success with 27 division members attending.
- **Student Poster Displays at ATA65:** We had three student posters on display during the Welcome Reception and in the Convention Center for the rest of the conference. The students received great feedback and made valuable connections. We would like to thank Andy Benzo and Adrian Aleckna for their support before and during the conference.
- **News Briefs:** Bi-monthly news briefs were posted on our website and shared with the membership in October and December.
- **Blog:** We posted a review of the sessions “Mining 101” and “Mining 102” by Sadot Márquez and Pedro Valdez on our [website blog](#).
- **Website:** We continued updating the website with the latest division news, events and blog articles.
- **Communication:** Headquarters sent six broadcast emails to S&TD members, including reminders for the ATA65 dinner, latest division news and our search for a virtual networking host.
- **Social Media:** We deactivated our X account on 12/19, which will be automatically deleted after 30 days. Overall division membership and member engagement remained about the same: Facebook group (133 members), LinkedIn group (162 members), LinkedIn page (112 followers) and groups.io listserv (129 members).
- **Membership:** The ATA Online Directory currently lists 924 individual division members (down 189 from October?!). We are aware that this number is not a realistic representation, since the online Language Services Directory does not include all ATA members, see also our concern below.

## Going Forward:

- **Virtual Networking:** We received two responses to our request for a networking host. Our upcoming virtual meetups will be hosted by Valeria Verona on January 24 and Haidar AlSara on April 12.
- **Distinguished Speaker:** We have a list of potential Distinguished Speakers for 2025, and are currently contacting them to gauge their interest in presenting at ATA66.

- **Concern:** While the new online Language Services Directory serves its primary purpose, we would like to share some concerns. As a division, we have encountered challenges in verifying new requests to join our social media groups and managing RSVPs for our networking events. This is because the public-facing online directory does not include student members and excludes others due to the opt-out feature. In addition, the ability to search by email address or ATA membership number is no longer available.

While we understand the importance of privacy options, we believe that reinstating a private membership directory—accessible only to ATA members—would be highly beneficial. Such a resource, similar to what we had before, does not only support divisions but also provides easier communication and collaboration among ATA members as a whole. We hope that ATA and the Board will consider this request.