

4/2009

I wish to express my intension to run for the Washington State Science Olympiad Board from the SW Washington district. While I am a relative newcomer to SO, I am very enthusiastic as to what the SO program brings to science education.

I am a former professor of Physics and Chemistry at small liberal arts colleges, and more recently been involved in environmental outreach and education. I currently help coach SO at Camas High School, and am serving as VP for the SW regional SO board. My two sons have participated in the SO program for the past three years, and have greatly enjoyed the program.

There are many aspects of the SO program that complement traditional academic programs that will serve students very well as they pursue careers in science. SO isn't just book knowledge but a combination of hands-on experience, practical engineering troubleshooting, and communication skills. Most importantly, however, is the development of team work. One or two very bright individuals will not be enough to have a successful team. At Camas, I have also seen how there are important roles for students to fill that are behind the scenes to the direct competition.

There are three main skills I would bring to the board: the ability (and willingness) to ask pertinent questions about the existing programs; being able to develop innovative solutions after listening to problems from several viewpoints; and experience in developing successful outreach programs.

Lastly, outside of the efforts of outstanding individual teachers, the SO program has the most potential I have ever seen to get kids, who might not otherwise take extra science courses, interested in science. Clearly, many kids like my own come from families with at least one parent with who has a technical background. But there are also others who don't. Coming from a blue collar background with parents who didn't graduate from high school this is an important point for me.

Rick Grote
4375 NW 12th Loop
Camas, WA 98607
rfgrote@comcast.net

Richard Grote, Ph.D.

4375 NW 12th Loop
Camas, WA 98607

rfgrote@comcast.net

(360) 834-6132

Professional Profile:

- Science Education Outreach
- 10+ years working with a broad range of businesses to reduce or eliminate environmental wastes while simultaneously reducing costs and future risks. Developed sophisticated training programs for business and regulatory personnel to recognize environmental opportunities, and implement projects.
- Assistant Professor of Chemistry and Physics

Experience:

- **Industrial Pollution Prevention Specialist** **1997-2001**
University of Wisconsin-Extension, Solid and Hazardous Waste Education Center
- **Engineering Specialist III** **1992-1997**
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Pollution Prevention & Recycling
- **Manager, Environmental Products** **1989-1991**
Nuclear Environmental Analysis, Inc.,
- **Assistant Professor of Physics** **1986-1989**
University of Portland
- **Assistant Professor of Chemistry** **1983-1986**
Nazareth College

Education:

- Ph.D. in Chemical Physics, University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado
- B.S. Physics and Mathematics, University of Dayton, Dayton, Ohio
- Certified Hazardous Materials Manger (CHMM), Institute of Hazardous Materials Management, Rockville, Maryland

Other Activities:

- Vice President, SW WA Regional Science Olympiad Board
- Coaching Chair, Camas High School Science Olympiad
- Advisor, Institute of Science, Engineering, and Public Policy (www.ISEPP.org)
- Lean Manufacturing, Madison, Wisconsin
- Environmental Management System Training, University of Wisconsin
- Co-Chaired Research and Technology Transfer workgroup of the National Pollution Prevention Roundtable.
- Science Advisory Committee for the Hazardous Substance Research Center, Lamar University, Beaumont, TX.
- Liaison to the Environmental Solutions Program at the University of Texas at Austin
- Referee, first Monsanto Million Dollar Challenge.
- Judge, Air Force Environmental Awards program.
- RCRA and Emergency Response Training.