AAS was founded in 1848 and incorporated in 1874. Its mission is to enhance public engagement with science and technology for everyone; increase public engagement with the benefit of all people. The goals of the association are to:

enhance the scientific and technical workforce;

— including

— improving educational opportunities for students and teachers;

— improving public understanding of science and technology.

The AAS supports and promotes the work of educators, policy makers, and professionals who engage the public in science and technology.