

**Dr. Neal F. Lane**  
**2008 Winner**  
**AIP Karl T. Compton Medal for**  
**Leadership in Physics**



THE American Institute of Physics KARL T. COMPTON MEDAL recognizes distinguished service to the profession of physics. It is to be awarded every four years. The award is named for Karl Taylor Compton in honor of his services to the physics community and consists of a certificate, a medal, and a check for ten-thousand dollars.

Born in Oklahoma City in 1938, Dr. Lane earned his B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees in physics from the University of Oklahoma. Lane is the Malcolm Gillis University Professor at Rice University in Houston, Texas and also holds appointments at Rice as a Senior Fellow of the James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy, where he is engaged in matters of science and technology policy, and in the Department of Physics and Astronomy.

Dr. Lane Joined the Department of Physics at Rice University in 1966 as an assistant professor, becoming Professor of Physics and Space Physics and Astronomy in 1972. From 1979 to 1980 Dr. Lane was on leave from Rice to serve as Director of the Division of Physics of the National Science Foundation and from mid-1984 to 1986 he served as Chancellor of the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. He returned to Rice University as Provost and Professor of Physics from 1986 to 1993

From October 1993 to August 1998 Dr. Lane served in the Federal government as Director of the National Science Foundation and member (ex-officio) of the National Science Board. In August, 1998 He was appointed by President Clinton to be Assistant to the President for Science and Technology and Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy and served in this capacity until January 2001.

Widely regarded as a distinguished scientist and educator, Dr. Lane's many writings and presentations include topics in theoretical atomic and molecular physics - especially electronic and atomic collisions and properties of excited ions in high temperature fusion plasmas and excited atoms in liquid helium - and science and technology policy. Early in his career he received the W. Alton Jones Graduate Fellowship and held an NSF Doctoral Fellowship at the University of Oklahoma, an NSF Post-Doctoral Fellowship while in residence at Queen's University, Belfast, Northern Ireland, and an Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Fellowship at Rice University and on research leave at Oxford University. He earned Phi Beta Kappa honors in 1960 and was inducted into Sigma Xi National Research Society in 1964, serving as its national president in 1993. He served as Visiting Fellow at the Joint Institute for Laboratory Astrophysics in 1965-66 and 1975-76. While a Professor at Rice, he was two-time recipient of the University's George R. Brown Prize for Superior Teaching. Dr. Lane has received numerous prizes, awards, including the AAAS Philip Hauge Abelson Award, the AAAS William D. Carey Award, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers President's Award, the American Chemical Society Public Service Award, the American Astronomical Society /American Mathematical Society/American Physical Society Public Service Award, and many honorary degrees. He recently was selected to receive the National Academy of Sciences Public Welfare Medal, considered by the Academy to be its most prestigious award.

Through his work with scientific and professional organizations and his participation on review and advisory committees for Federal and state agencies, Dr. Lane has contributed to

public service throughout his career. He is a fellow of the American Physical Society, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Association for Advancement of Science, the Association for Women in Science and a member of the American Association of Physics Teachers. He serves on several boards and advisory committees.

Neal Lane and his wife, Joni, have two children, John and Christy Saydjari, and four grandchildren, Alex and Allia Saydjari and Matthew and Jessica Lane.

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The certificate presented to Doctor Lane reads:

*The AIP Karl T. Compton Medal for Leadership in Physics is awarded to Neal F. Lane in recognition of his leadership and service to the physics community and to science: for serving as a model "civic scientist," for his advocacy of public understanding of science and technology, and for his championship of scientific research and education.*