

National Science Foundation Invests \$900,000 in IMSEP

A collaborative proposal of UNI, ISU, and UI to recruit junior- and senior-level STEM majors, as well as working professionals into the teaching pipeline, has been funded for \$899,298 over four years. This Robert Noyce Scholars program, named for the inventor of the microchip, requires that scholarship recipients teach for two years in a high-need school for each year of support. Complimentary to IMSEP's freshman-level recruitment program, I-Teach Mathematics & Science, the Noyce program helps the collaborative initiative achieve the goal of producing more talented science and mathematics teachers for Iowa schools.

Advisory Council Meeting Helps IMSEP with Big Picture

The inaugural meeting of Iowa Mathematics and Science Education Partnership's (IMSEP) Advisory Council convened in Des Moines at an appropriate meeting spot – the Board Room of the Science Center of Iowa. Leaders from education and business donated their precious time to help the IMSEP team shape a vision for science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education in Iowa for 2010 and beyond. The key take-home messages of the day were to focus resources on the most pressing of challenges we face and to work



Distinguished state and national leaders of business and education gave generously of their time and wisdom at IMSEP's first bi-annual Advisory Council meeting, held at the Science Center of Iowa in Des Moines on May 15, 2009.

closely with Iowa's numerous mathematics and science education stakeholders. We would like to thank those in attendance for their insight and suggestions. Advisory Council members are listed at

<http://www.iowamathscience.org/people/council.shtml>.

Competitive Awards Review

At the Iowa Mathematics and Science Institute here at UNI, we are winding down the fiscal year by examining status reports of multi-year competitive and non-competitively awarded programs. These reports will inform the IMSEP Executive Board to help shape 2010 activities. We, like all programs listed in the Iowa State Budget, will be operating a bit leaner due to an 8.33% budget cut. A report of our first-year accomplishments will be available later this summer.

Spring ConFABS Wrap-Up

"It's win-win all around when schools and businesses work together," echoed as the final comment to this season's latest Conversations to Forge Alliances of Business and Schools (ConFABS) meeting held at the Mississippi Bend AEA on May 21. Throughout the spring, nearly 100 community and business leaders, teachers, parents and IMSEP staff gathered at AEA locations around the state to discuss the challenges, opportunities and benefits of these school-business partnerships. IMSEP would like to thank everyone who attended a ConFABS. Your input will shape science and mathematics education in Iowa well into the future. If you would like to attend a ConFABS, five more AEA partners will be asked to co-host a meeting in the fall. For more information or to peruse a database of public/private partnerships currently underway in Iowa, go to <http://www.iowamathscience.org/symposium/partners/index.php>.

IMSEP Program to Produce More Community College STEM Instructors Blasts Off at Kirkwood



Former astronaut and Suffolk Community College graduate Robert L. Gibson keynoted the meeting *Teaching Mathematics and Science in Community College Career Day*.

Over 60 job seekers, business professionals seeking new career paths and current college students recently attended the *Teaching Mathematics and Science in Community College Career Day*. Sponsored by IMSEP and the Iowa State University's Community College Leadership Program, the one-day workshop encouraged students and professionals to consider teaching mathematics and science courses at a community-college level. Keynote speaker Dr. Robert L Gibson, a former Navy pilot, NASA astronaut and community college graduate, addressed the group at the Kirkwood Center for Continuing Education in Cedar Rapids. Due to outstanding response, more workshops are underway. To learn more about this event, contact Dr. Marisa Rivera at mrivera@iastate.edu.

Iowa Mathematics and Science Teacher Preparers' Summit

IMSEP is convening all the mathematics and science teacher preparers from across the state for *The Iowa Mathematics and Science Teacher Preparers' Summit* on Friday, August 14, at Grand View University in Des Moines. Approximately 130 public and private university faculty will come together to craft a shared vision for Iowa's future mathematics and science teaching graduates. For more information, go to <http://www.iowamathscience.org/summit/>.

IMSEP Staffer to Answer Call to Teach

Dr. Jill Humston, IMSEP's projects coordinator since last September, will step down from her post at the end of May in order to pursue licensure to teach high school science, while taking an adjunct instructor position at UNI's department of chemistry and biochemistry. Jill has been critical to the early mission of IMSEP by coordinating a federal grant proposal, contributing mightily to our assessment reports, helping to launch the core program *Real World Externships*, along with innumerable duties for which she was called upon. Though we will miss her, Jill will be a fantastic high school teacher.

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