

## Iowa Mathematics & Science Education Partnership

A collaboration of the University of Northern Iowa, Iowa State University and the University of Iowa



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### UPDATE October 30, 2008

- The **Iowa Mathematics and Science Education Institute** was formally approved by the Board of Regents on October 29, 2008.
- Working with UNI *Financial Aid* and *Career Services* we are crafting scholarship and internship aspects of the **I-Teach Program**. A pilot seminar is now operating at UNI and NIACC. Thirty-six recruits to mathematics and science teaching are enrolled. The students are matched with exemplary teachers for initial experience at teaching. ISU joins the effort this spring, with additional community colleges.
- IMSEP is carrying out a legislative directive to assess **the status of women and minorities in STEM** fields at UNI, ISU, and UI. An inter-university writing team will use 10 years of registrars' data and a national literature base to clarify where we are and what we recommend for increasing STEM opportunities for all.
- IMSEP is hosting a December 2 symposium: **Iowa STEM Education Public-Private Partnerships**. If Iowa is to meet the demand for 21st century graduates prepared to lead the nation and the world, it will take a team approach -- partnerships across the public-private spectrum. A website for registrations has been created at [www.iowamathscience.org/symposium](http://www.iowamathscience.org/symposium).
- Last week, IMSEP submitted a half-million dollar proposal to NASA for creating **research opportunities in climate change for math and science teaching majors**. The plan involves co-PIs at each of Iowa's public universities.
- As co-sponsor of the traveling robotics exhibit of the **Science Center of Iowa**, IMSEP is coordinating a variety of programs and presentations by regent university faculty on Saturdays this fall. The first on October 25 has passed. The second opportunity on November 8 is fast approaching.
- IMSEP is collaborating with the Technology Association of Iowa to produce **Iowa Women of Innovation 2008**, a celebration of Iowa women of distinction in STEM fields, November 11.
- **Twenty-five contracts** have been executed between Iowa's three regent universities (offices of sponsored programs) and IMSEP to anchor the fund transfers necessary to collaborate on core projects and competitive grants.

- **More than fifty faculty** and administrators across the regent system are now actively engaged in IMSEP activities.
- The first of October, UI was awarded four competitive grants totaling about \$200,000 for faculty projects involving mathematics and science education in support of IMSEP goals. This "**special extension opportunity**" for UI was in recognition of the negative coincidence of IMSEP's first round of mini-grants and UI's flooding last summer.
- A **lean central administrative staff** — Jeff Weld, Director; Kari Jastorff, Program Manager; and Jill Humston, Projects Coordinator, plus three undergraduate hourly workers and one graduate assistant — are managing and overseeing the many dimensions of IMSEP.
- Remodeled space in the Center for Energy and Environmental Education became **home to IMSEP** on September 24.
- **IMSEP is poised to engage UNI** through local support funds distribution, campus coordinator identification, and a decision-making scaffold for faculty lines, professional development needs, etc. We hope that the internal committee can soon assume this role.
- IMSEP central team is **planning to add** yet this fall . . . A) secretarial support; B) an evaluation specialist; C) an Advisory Council; and D) Communication specialist.
- A **Progress Report** detailing the accomplishments of IMSEP's 21+ projects is being generated in November for the BOR and legislature.
- A second round of **competitive grants** is being prepared for December following revisions to the proposal, review, and award process used in August.
- A featured IMSEP project, **Real World Internships for Teachers**, is being planned for statewide implementation in summer of 2009 in partnership with business and industry partners.