



STATE OF NEW MEXICO
PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
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DR. VERONICA C. GARCÍA
SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

BILL RICHARDSON
Governor

July 15, 2006

MEMORANDUM

TO: All parties interested in mathematics and science education

FROM: Veronica C. García, Ed.D
Secretary of Education

RE: CREATION OF A STATE MATH AND SCIENCE ADVISORY COUNCIL

In November 2005 a New Mexico First Town Hall meeting was held to discuss the future of mathematics and science education in New Mexico, and make recommendations for its improvement (<http://www.nmfirst.org/townhalls/todate.htm>). Based on one of the recommendations a Math and Science unit was created within the Public Education Department. Another recommendation called for the establishment of “a state-wide math and science initiative to improve math and science instruction and narrow the achievement gap. The initiative will also be supported by an advisory council, with members that are representative of the education community and all stakeholders.”

It was also recommended that “the initiative will be further supported by a state-wide strategic plan for math and science education crafted by the advisory council with input from key decision makers and stakeholders. The strategic planning process will include budget projections. The Advisory Council will advise the legislature annually as to the budget. Representatives from the PED, HED, Pre K-12 teachers and students, IHEs, research labs, and other relevant stakeholders will be involved in developing and sustaining an ongoing collaborative partnership and process to develop and implement an action plan for the state to address math and science literacy. This body will utilize state-wide and national data, best practices and exemplary models, and student input to foster student and educator learning and achievement.”

We are creating a 13 member Math and Science Advisory Council from throughout the state to ensure balance in geographic location and gender and ethnic diversity with specific membership from the following groups:

Four members from public schools, including at least two mathematics and science teachers and a school district administrator with experience with mathematics and science curriculum;

Three members from higher education with expertise in mathematics or science education representing two-year and four-year institutions;

Four members from the private sector, including the national laboratories, museums and science- and engineering-based businesses; and

One member who represents the New Mexico Partnership for Math and Science Education.

One member who is a high school junior and a member of NM MESA.

One member who is a parent of a public school child and does not fit in any of the above categories.

If you would like to benefit the children of New Mexico by serving on the Math and Science Advisory Council, please fill out and submit the attached application by August 8 to Rick Scott, Bureau of Math and Science, Public Education Department, 300 Don Gaspar, Santa Fe, NM 87501-2786; or patrick.scott@state.nm.us. 505-827-6572 or 505-642-1895

Please encourage your qualified friends and colleagues to apply.

VCG/ps/mc

Enclosures: (1)