

AACR 3

Office of the President
May 10, 2005

Members, Board of Trustees:

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PARTNERSHIP INSTITUTE FOR MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE REFORM

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees approve the establishment of the Partnership Institute for Mathematics and Science Reform, effective July 1, 2005.

Background: Research and media reports abound with information on the need for more emphasis on improving K-12 student and teacher performance in mathematics and science. The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 places greater emphasis on student and teacher performance and the need for the state and higher education institutions to improve markedly their performance, with recent special emphasis on high schools. The issue of, high stakes testing, where rewards or sanctions accrue to some combination of student, teacher, and school performance, has changed the school environment in which teachers work.

About three years ago the University of Kentucky joined with other institutions of higher education (IHE) and school district partners to address these problems, primarily in Central Appalachia. Specifically, the partners entered into competition for a newly announced National Science Foundation Mathematics and Science Partnership (MSP) program to improve K-16 mathematics, science, and technology education. The group, with the university as the lead institution, was successful in receiving a large award for the Appalachian Mathematics and Science Partnership (AMSP), a partnership of nine (9) IHEs and fifty-one (51) school districts, primarily in the Appalachian region of Kentucky, Tennessee, and Virginia.

The institute is a cooperative effort between the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Education to continue addressing the goals of AMSP beyond its length of funding. The Associate Provost for Educational Partnerships will provide administrative oversight for the Partnership. A major function will be to sustain many of its accomplishments and utilize the capacity developed by AMSP for the improvement of mathematics, science, and technology education developed by AMSP.

The proposal has been recommended by the deans of the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Education. The Provost of the university supports this recommendation.

Action taken: Approved Disapproved Other _____