

Center for Science and Mathematics Education Created at Stony Brook University

STONY BROOK, N.Y., August 9, 2007—Stony Brook University announced today that it is establishing a Center for Science and Mathematics Education. The new Center will be led by R. David Bynum, a Professor of Biochemistry at Stony Brook, who already directs several award-winning programs in the sciences at Stony Brook.

The goals of the new Center are to:

- Attract diversity in the fields of science and mathematics
- Broaden the science and mathematics knowledge base of the general public
- Enhance Stony Brook's nationally recognized teacher education programs in science and mathematics
- Integrate science and mathematics throughout the K-16 curriculum
- Work with business, educational organizations, public and private schools and community colleges to accomplish these goals

Bynum is Director of the Long Island Group for Advancing Science Education at Stony Brook (LIGASE), a nationally recognized science education group. LIGASE directs programs ranging from elementary school to in-service-and pre-service teacher education, to the post-doctoral and faculty levels. LIGASE has received over \$12 million in external grant support and has been recognized by the White House for its outstanding programs at all levels.

Last Fall, Bynum led the New York State delegation to the National Academies convocation on "Rising Above the Gathering Storm: Energizing and Employing America for a Brighter Economic Future."

"For over a decade the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, and corporate and private sources have all been extremely supportive of LIGASE," Bynum said. "We are now delighted at the opportunity to build on this support and develop the Center at the state, national and international levels."

The new Center is part of a high quality science teacher education program at Stony Brook and will assist in the scope and expansion of these efforts, including plans to increase degree offerings and the development of a Ph.D. program in science education.

In addition, Stony Brook's mathematics and sciences departments are nationally renowned and the University also has teacher education programs within each department. The University also has M.A. and M.A.T. programs and B.A./B.S. /M.A.T. programs in the sciences and math and other disciplines, allowing students to obtain a masters degree in teaching, or a combined degree in five years.

"I believe Stony Brook is especially well suited to participate in, and lead, the development of the next generation of teachers and teaching strategies in science and mathematics," said Stony Brook Provost Robert L. McGrath.