



For immediate release

***Strong start for National Math and Science Initiative on AP grant
Wednesday May 9, 2007***

Launched on March 9, 2007 with a lead gift of \$125 million from ExxonMobil, the National Math and Science Initiative is addressing one of the nation's greatest economic and intellectual threats—the declining number of students who are prepared for and take rigorous college courses in mathematics and science. To flourish in the 21st century, the United States must continue to generate intellectual capital that can drive the research and development activities that fuel the economic engine of our future prosperity.

Two months ago, NMSI issued a request for proposals for the replication of training and incentive programs for AP and pre-AP mathematics, science, and English courses. Today, NMSI is inviting applicants from 21 states to submit full proposals. This comes after thorough review of proposals submitted from across the country.

The invited states are Alabama, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Virginia, Washington, and West Virginia, and Wyoming.

The first round of grants will be awarded in August 2007 when NMSI will make awards to non-profits in 10 states of up to \$13 million over six years for the replication of training and incentive programs.

Hallmarks of training and incentive programs include extensive formal and informal training of Pre-AP and AP teachers, additional time on task for students, financial incentives based on academic results, and cultivation of Lead Teachers to provide leadership to the program in their schools by mentoring other AP and Pre-AP teachers.

In Texas, schools with training and incentive programs for AP mathematics and science courses increased the number of students passing the AP exams by four and five-fold respectively over five years.

NMSI intends to increase the competitiveness of the U.S. by scaling up programs with a proven track record for increasing student success in math and science, including training and incentive programs for AP and pre-AP courses.

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