



## Science Teachers Association of Texas

*Celebrating 50 Years of Serving Science Educators*

P.O. Box 4828, Austin, TX 78765 - (512) 451-STAT [7828]

Kenneth William Heydrick, Ed.D., President, 2006-2007

# STAT UPDATE

## TSELA Spring Meeting – April 24, 2007

- 1. New 2007-08 Officer Election Results** – Congratulations to our new Executive Committee members: **President Elect: Michael Baldwin**, Elementary Science Specialist, Brownsville Independent School District, Brownsville, TX; **Vice President: Kathy Kraften**, Math/Science Partnership, Staff Developer (K-12), El Paso Independent School District, El Paso, TX; **Treasurer: Rosemary Martin**, Science Consultant and Product Developer for Supporting Science, Inc., Bastrop, TX, **Recording Secretary: Perri Segura**, Science Coordinator, Fort Bend ISD, Sugar Land, TX
- 2. STAT's Executive Director** – We had 19 qualified people submit applications for Executive Director. The interview committee met with 8 candidates this past Saturday. ***We want to hire someone to start on June 1, 2007. We will keep Virginia Woods on board until CAST 2007 in November. This would be her 50th CAST and a proper celebration of her contributions to STAT. This would allow a transition of about 6 months -- ensuring that the continuity and "transfer of knowledge" could adequately occur.***
- 3. STAT Office** - ***STAT has been exploring the option of a leased office building in the southeast part of Austin. We also are looking at purchasing a property. The interviews for Executive Director may produce a combination that includes an office. Stay tuned!***
- 4. CAST 2007 – 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration in Austin – Proposals and Hotels** - Online proposals for workshops and short courses must be submitted **by May 1**. Online hotel room reservations are also up and running. The host hotel is the Hilton - a new property across from the convention center. The theme is: "Celebrate the Past. Imagine the Future." We have about 40 local people working on an exceptional experience for you! See you in November!
- 5. \$5,000 STAT Awards - Nominate an Exemplary Teacher** – The Texas Medical Association will continue to sponsor our Outstanding Science Teaching Awards again this year. Each awardee will receive a **\$5,000 check**, plaque, and will be honored at the CAST 2007 Awards Luncheon in Austin. Please nominate qualified individuals for these awards **by July 1, 2007**. Go to the STAT website for the nomination packet.
- 6. Official TEA/SBOE TEKS Revision Process Beginning** – The official Science TEKS Revision process ("refinement and alignment") for grades K-12 has formally begun. But, the process is different than in the past. Nominations for TEKS Revision Committee members are being channeled directly through members of the Texas State Board of Education (SBOE). SBOE members must submit their nominations to TEA by **MAY 15, 2007**. There are really three different

Science TEKS committees to be nominated for --- (1) the K-12 Science TEKS revision, (2) the new Earth and Space Science TEKS, and (3) the new Engineering TEKS. You should include an introductory letter (with complete contact information) and your resume/vitae. This is a very important endeavor to be involved in. Time is of the essence!!

7. **STAT TEKS Revision Initiative** – As an association, we have been engaged since June 2006 in reviewing the existing Science TEKS. About 40 members worked in grade-level groups to review and suggest changes to the existing Science TEKS. Their work products were disseminated on-line and at CAST 2006 for peer reviews. We also had 6 sessions at CAST 2006 to solicit feedback on the suggested changes to the Science TEKS. In summary, about 2,000 members provided feedback to the revision of the Science TEKS! A second draft of the STAT recommendations to the Science TEKS was released in January. Then, in late January, members of TSELA (Texas Science Education Leadership Association) began looking at the alignment of science concepts in grades K-12 found in our work. TSELA will finish the alignment process in early May. We are then scheduled to have a "content review team" of university and college people review our suggestions for content validity. STAT should be able to offer its suggestions and recommendations at the July 2007 SBOE meeting. This timing is crucial to be able to impact the official TEA/SBOE Science TEKS Revision ("Refinement and Alignment") workgroups. STAT greatly appreciates all the hard work and time that its members have provided to our own suggestions for Science TEKS revisions. Stay tuned!
8. **Recap – SBOE January Action Items** – The SBOE discussed two matters important to STAT: (1) the new science courses - Earth and Space Science, and Engineering; and (2) the Minimum Graduation Plan. The timeline for Science TEKS Revision was distributed, which showed that the process would start in fall 2007. The changing of the name of the MGP was discussed.
9. **SBOE April Meeting Canceled** – All business came to a stop. There is some controversy on committee appointments. July meeting will be very important because of TEKS revision items.
10. **Commission for a College Ready Texas** – The Governor's newest initiative met for the first time on April 23. I was invited to attend this event. Sandi Kress is Chair and lots of VIPs on Commission. Joint venture of the TEA and HECB. Focus on back mapping expectations down through high school. Much of science discussion centered on moving towards "less is more" in science content, and better alignment with process/content between colleges and high schools.
11. **Earth and Space Science Summit** – SEDL hosted this summit on February 20-21 with the purpose of generating a report to state leaders (TEA) on the development of a high school capstone science course. The big ideas in ESS and the qualities that make a capstone course were discussed.
12. **New Electronic Email Blasts – STAT eXPRESS** – We have started short periodic email blasts to keep STAT members informed. The email comes from [stathome@statwebhome.org](mailto:stathome@statwebhome.org). Please make sure you save this email address so that it is not caught as SPAM.

***ALSO – GET A COLLEAGUE TO JOIN STAT!! WE NEED TO GROW!!!***

### **COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS, and FEEDBACK FOR STAT**

Please feel free to share your comments with me.

You can contact me at [kkwwhh@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kkwwhh@sbcglobal.net) or 512-297-4030. Thanks!!