
For Your Information

Calls for Nominations for AAAS Awards

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) confers a number of awards to honor contributions by scientists. Among these are awards recognizing mentorship of underrepresented students, contributions to scientific freedom and responsibility, efforts by scientists to promote public understanding of science, and science journalism.

The deadline for nominations is generally August 1. For further information, consult the AAAS Web page <http://www.aaas.org/AAAS/award.html> or contact: Awards Coordinator, American Association for the Advancement of Science, 1200 New York Avenue, NW, Room 730, Washington, DC 20005; e-mail awards@aaas.org; telephone 202-326-6636; fax 202-789-2008.

— *Allyn Jackson*

National 8th-Grade Mathematics Test under Development

In his State of the Union address last February, President Clinton set forth an agenda for improving education in the United States. One of the points of his plan is instituting a program of voluntary testing of 4th-graders in reading and 8th-graders in mathematics. Unlike large-scale testing programs already in place, such as the National Assessment

of Educational Progress, the new test would provide individual students with scores that will show how their achievement compared with that of their counterparts at the state and national levels. The new tests will be made available to states, districts, schools, and teachers in the spring of 1999.

Because the mathematics test has the potential to influence how the subject is taught in schools, the AMS Committee on Education has made efforts to insure that mathematicians participate in the process of developing the test. On May 10 the AMS sent out to all members residing in the U.S. an e-mail message from Judith Roitman of the University of Kansas, chair of the COE Subcommittee on Undergraduate and School Mathematics. The message urged Society members to become informed about the development of this test and to join in discussions about it.

The tests will be developed through contracts awarded competitively by the Department of Education. The Department has held meetings with mathematical organizations and other interested groups, and these meetings will continue in the coming months. In addition, the Department has formed an advisory committee for the mathematics test which includes John A. Dossey, past president of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM); Gail F. Burrill, president of the NCTM; Donald L. Kreider, past president of the Mathematical Association of America; and Hyman Bass, chair of the AMS Board of Trustees. For further information consult the Web page <http://www.ed.gov/nationaltests/>.

— *Allyn Jackson*