
For Your Information

National Mathematics Advisory Panel Members Announced

In May 2006, U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings announced the seventeen expert panelists and six ex-officio members chosen to comprise the National Mathematics Advisory Panel. The panel will advise President Bush and Secretary Spellings on the best use of scientifically based research to advance the teaching and learning of mathematics.

“To keep America competitive in the twenty-first century, we must improve the way we teach math and we must give more students the chance to take advanced math and science courses in high school,” Secretary Spellings said. “America’s high school graduates need solid math skills, whether proceeding to college or going into the workforce.”

The National Mathematics Advisory Panel (NMP), modeled after the National Reading Panel, will examine and summarize the scientific evidence related to the teaching and learning of mathematics, with a specific focus on preparation for and success in learning algebra. The NMP will issue an interim report by January 31, 2007, and a final report no later than February 28, 2008. These reports will provide policy recommendations on how to improve mathematics achievement for all students.

The National Mathematics Advisory Panel will be chaired by Larry Faulkner, president of the Houston Endowment and president emeritus of the University of Texas at Austin.

Other panelists: Deborah Ball, dean, School of Education and Collegiate Professor, University of Michigan; Camilla Benbow, Dean of Education and Human Development, Vanderbilt University, Peabody College; A. Wade Boykin, professor and director of the Developmental Psychology Graduate Program in the Department of Psychology, Howard University; Francis “Skip” Fennell, professor of education, McDaniel College, Maryland, and president, National Council of Teachers of Mathematics; David Geary, Curators’ Professor, Department of Psychological Sciences,

University of Missouri at Columbia; Russell Gersten, executive director, Instructional Research Group and Professor Emeritus, College for Education, University of Oregon; Nancy Ichinaga, former principal, Bennett-Kew Elementary School, Inglewood, California; Tom Loveless, director, Brown Center on Education Policy and Senior Fellow in Governance Studies, The Brookings Institution; Liping Ma, Senior Scholar for the Advancement of Teaching, Carnegie Foundation; Valerie Reyna, professor of human development and professor of psychology, Cornell University; Wilfried Schmid, professor of mathematics, Harvard University; Robert Siegler, Teresa Heinz Professor of Cognitive Psychology, Carnegie Mellon University; Jim Simons, president of Renaissance Technologies Corporation and former professor of mathematics, Stony Brook University; Sandra Stotsky, independent researcher and consultant in education and former Senior Associate Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Education; Vern Williams, math teacher, Longfellow Middle School, Fairfax, Virginia; and Hung-Hsi Wu, professor of mathematics, University of California at Berkeley.

Ex-officio members: Dan Berch, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, National Institutes of Health; Diane Jones, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy; Tom Luce, assistant secretary, U.S. Department of Education; Kathie Olsen, deputy director, National Science Foundation; Raymond Simon, deputy secretary, U.S. Department of Education; and Grover (Russ) Whitehurst, director, Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education.

All meetings of the NMP will be open to the public and will be announced in the Federal Register.

The NMP’s website is <http://www.ed.gov/about/bdscmm/list/mathpanel/index.html>.

—Department of Education news release

Mathematics Institutes Informational Website

Two years ago, the directors of the mathematics institutes funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) formed a directors' council. This council meets annually to discuss issues common to all of the institutes and also interacts by email between meetings. One outcome of the council's work is a new website, which went online in May 2006. The purpose of the website is to provide convenient, centralized access to information about the activities of the NSF-funded institutes.

The website offers various features, including an events database that can be browsed or searched by institute, keyword, or dates, giving access to all the programs at all the institutes. A collection of research highlights describe some of the scientific outcomes from the institutes. There is also a search box that interacts with Google so that one can search for terms on all the institutes' websites.

Information about six institutes is accessible through this website: the American Institute of Mathematics, the School of Mathematics at the Institute for Advanced Study, the Institute for Mathematics and its Applications, the Mathematical Biosciences Institute, the Mathematical Sciences Research Institute, and the Statistical and Applied Mathematical Sciences Institute.

The mathematics institutes website is at <http://www.mathinstitutes.org>.

—*Allyn Jackson*