

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 2003

## **REGENTS RELEASE \$2.4 MILLION IN IMPROVING TEACHER QUALITY FUNDS**

COLUMBUS, Ohio -- The Ohio Board of Regents today approved the release of more than \$2.4 million in Improving Teacher Quality Program funds to support twenty-five separate mathematics and science education improvement projects. The projects link fifteen of Ohio's colleges and universities with high-need school systems across the state in an effort to improve mathematics and science education.

Specifically Improving Teacher Quality Program projects are designed to provide sustained, intensive, high-quality professional development opportunities for practicing elementary and secondary school teachers and administrators from high-need schools so they can in turn provide challenging learning experiences in science and mathematics for their students. Project activities must focus on the Ohio Academic Content Standards.

The typical funded project involves a summer program and follow-up activities during the ensuing academic year. Projects generally emphasize a hands-on, inquiry-based, problem-solving approach to teaching and learning science and mathematics. Projects bring teachers in contact with the latest advances in the field, and with fresh ideas for classroom activities.

The twenty-five projects funded today will provide an opportunity for over 2,000 teachers across the state to get back into the college classroom, and will bring the expertise of Ohio's college faculty into the schools. Of the projects funded for this year, eleven will focus specifically on science improvement, four will focus specifically on mathematics improvement, and ten will address both science and mathematics. The projects involve four private colleges, and nine state-assisted universities, including three regional campuses.

According to Dr. Russell Utgard, who assists the Board of Regents in administering the program, this year's competition for Improving Teacher Quality funds drew 46 proposals from 28 colleges and universities. Requests for funds totaled over \$5.7 million. A 17-member review panel of experts representing all levels of science and mathematics education rated and ranked the proposals, and made funding recommendations to the Board.

The Improving Teacher Quality Program which is part of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, distributes federal funds to all 50 states to support activities designed to increase student achievement by elevating teacher quality. Each state's share of program funds is based on the number of school-aged children in the state.

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NOTE: A [list of funded projects and project contacts](#) is attached. Abstracts of specific projects will be faxed on request. For more information, contact Dr. Russell Utgard at [rutgard@regents.state.oh.us](mailto:rutgard@regents.state.oh.us) or (614) 752-9541.