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Science Notes - ChemSource Modules Being Tested

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ChemSource Modules Being Tested

ChemSource is a three-year project to produce materials that will provide day-to-day support for preservice and in-service high school chemistry teachers. Now in its second year, the project is funded by a \$1.3 million grant from the National Science Foundation. The principal investigator is Mary Virginia Orna, professor of chemistry at the College of New Rochelle, NY.

Two linked products will be produced by *ChemSource*. *SourceView* will consist of two hours of professional quality videotapes on exemplary chemistry teaching, showing teachers and students in their classrooms. The videotapes will illustrate general teaching skills such as motivating students and obtaining feedback, and science-specific teaching skills such as introducing and conducting the laboratory and synthesizing data (postlaboratory). The videotapes will illustrate novice, non-engaging teaching behaviors simulated by expert teachers, as well as expert behaviors that engage students in learning. The demonstrations and experiments shown in the videotapes are those suggested in *SourceBook* (see below). *SourceView* should also be available as interactive videodisc.

SourceBook is being developed by twelve writing teams located throughout the country, each team consisting of two high school teachers and one college teacher. *SourceBook* will make available the most up-to-date resources in chemical education and will present systematically a compendium of methods and techniques used successfully by experienced teachers of chemistry. *SourceBook* will also include material on the history of chemistry and will incorporate the latest information and recommendations from the Safety Committee of the American Chemical Society.

Individuals throughout the country have been asked to test the first three rounds of content modules using students and student teachers in their communities. Methods teachers have also been asked to provide feedback.

SourceBook material is being translated to Hypercard. For further information on *ChemSource*, contact Mary Virginia Orna, Principal Investigator, Department of Chemistry, College of New Rochelle, New Rochelle, NY 10805, ph. (914) 654-5302.

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