

1981

## Iowa Science Teachers Section and National Science Supervisors Association's Sixth Annual Curriculum Up-Date Conference

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**IOWA SCIENCE TEACHERS SECTION AND  
NATIONAL SCIENCE SUPERVISORS ASSOCIATION'S  
SIXTH ANNUAL CURRICULUM UP-DATE CONFERENCE**

June 21-26 are the dates for the 1981 Curriculum Up-date Conference at the University of Iowa. ISTS and NSSA are co-sponsors of the event. ISTS president-elect Ken Hartman of Ames will be a discussant group leader throughout the five day conference. Past NSSA president Charlie Butterfield will represent NSSA in a similar capacity. Gary Downs, ISTS member, is president-elect of NSSA and therefore will participate and represent both NSSA and ISTS. All participants from past years have been extremely positive about the ideas, the topics, the staff, and other conferees! The 1981 program and staff look great. All science teachers are invited to attend this outstanding conference. Plan now to participate.

The 1981 Conference will utilize the NSF-supported Project Synthesis report as a theme. Project Synthesis is the result of a two-year research effort that sought to define by means of a prospective synthesis what the desired state of science teaching in five focal areas would be like. These five focal areas will be used as daily foci for each of the five full days of the Conference. The areas include biology, physical science, inquiry, elementary science, and science/technology/society. Project Synthesis also included an analysis of the actual states of science teaching in each of the five areas. The three NSF status studies and the NAEP results of the Third Science Assessment provide a unique opportunity to report the actual states.

With a clear statement of the desired state (what ought to be) and a similarly clear statement of the actual states (what is), it is possible to identify discrepancies between the two. Such discrepancies point to corrective action, to needs, to recommendations that will permit to move to the desired state.

Discussing the desired states, the new direction defined, and procedures for getting to such directions will be the major goal for the 1981 Conference.

Other topics dealing with enrollment trends, teacher supply/demand, and new models for in-service will be provided as well as a look at new curriculum models which most clearly exemplify the desired states. Other issues will include teacher/administrative evaluation, achievement testing, development of reasoning, mainstreaming, and competency programs will be used to expand and to exemplify the synthesis theme for each day.

Group presentations are planned, small break-out group discussions, and special topic interchanges are all planned as daily activities.

The staff will consist of ISTS/NSSA leaders, Iowa Science Education Center staff, and several persons involved with the Synthesis study. Some of the Synthesis representatives who plan to be a part of the staff

include: Wayne Welch (Inquiry), Rodger Bybee (Biology), David Ost (Science/Technology/Society), Harold Pratt (Elementary Science), and Norris Harms (Physical Science).

The Conference will open with a welcome to Iowa reception at the Science Education Center on Sunday evening, June 21. Although persons can attend for less than the entire conference, much of the continuity and purpose of the five days is lost for those unable to participate fully.

The Conference fee is \$100. Additional costs will include room and board - available in dormitories, a University hotel, or local camping areas.

For application materials, please write to the Conference Director, Bob Yager. Inquiries should be directed as follows:

Robert E. Yager  
ISTS/NSSA Curriculum Update Conference  
Science Education Center  
The University of Iowa  
Iowa City, IA 52242

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### Quick Crystals

When teaching about minerals, there is no way that you can omit the topic of crystals. Usually, we either go to our mineral cases and take out examples of crystals to pass around, or we grow our own. The only problem with these methods is that both take time. With the former, we are looking at crystals "after the fact." With the latter, we lost the interest of some students because it takes too long to grow crystals from a solution.

By putting thymol (an organic compound that is available from any pharmacist) in a Petri dish, you can grow and melt crystals several times in a short period. Thymol melts at 52°C, so that a hot water bath or a hot plate can be used to melt the compound. Once the thymol is in a liquid state, place the Petri dish on a desk top. Within five minutes or less small crystals will form. Soon after, the melt will solidify into a crystal-line mass. By adjusting the temperature, you can affect crystal size, distribution and surface of cooling, and can demonstrate crystal classification.

Cleanup is quick, too. Cover a Petri dish containing the crystals and store it for the next use. Because of the odor from the thymol, the room should be well aerated.

Sil Crespo  
*New Jersey Science Teachers Newsletter*  
February 1980