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Project ASSIST: Recent Happenings

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Student Advisory Council:

Consists of 5-10 students who were finalists in the annual Science and Humanities Symposium, SSTP leaders, representatives of field projects from the preceding year, and finalists in the Community Betterment Program from preceding year.

The Council serves in an advisory capacity to the Director for the evaluation and improvement of the student programs.

IJAS Cabinet:

Consists of 16 regional coordinators appointed by the Director with approval of the Student Committee Program.

Specific responsibilities include the following:

- Promotes participation in activities of IJAS with drives, publicity, and written correspondence.
- Maintains a list of participants and affiliate schools for the region and submits them to the Director of IJAS.
- Organizes and conducts regional level meetings including the regional conferences and planning session.
- Coordinates the student activities on a regional level and promotes interaction with other regions.
- Facilitates communication among schools and students in the region.
- Submits material for the Bulletin to the Director of IJAS.
- Organizes fund raising projects to subsidize students for their participation in special programs.
- Maintains an accurate record of all regional meetings and submits minutes to the Director of IJAS following such meetings.

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING FOR THE PROPOSED IOWA COLLEGE BIOLOGY TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

A meeting involving all college biology teachers throughout the State of Iowa will take place during the Iowa Academy of Science meeting to be held April 27-28 at Grinnell College. The primary aim of this particular meeting will be to discuss plans for formulating a statewide College Biology Teachers'

Association. The impetus for organizing this proposed group has been derived from the results of a survey which was conducted and included all the two and four year college biology teachers in Iowa. The survey was specifically designed to determine the interest of these educators in forming such a statewide group. The results of the survey indicate that a majority of these educators expressed a desire to establish this organization. Further, the majority of the group desired to become an affiliate of the Iowa Academy as well. Specific times for the meeting will be announced in the printed program of events for the academy meeting.

(ed)

PROJECT ASSIST: RECENT HAPPENINGS

As the coordinators from the sixteen Project ASSIST centers prepare for their first formal meeting in Des Moines, February 25 and 26, it may be appropriate to consider the parameters for this pilot year. There are five areas of activity - each headed by a state coordinator working with a regional coordinator and associated staff in the sixteen centers. The five areas are: 1) assessment of needs and evaluation of existing programs, 2) public awareness and community relation programs, 3) student research, environmental and course-centered programs for enrichment and acceleration, 4) model teacher education programs involving schools and the twenty-eight colleges in Iowa with such programs, and 5) in-service projects involving schools and teachers in each region.

The assessment efforts will be a major undertaking for the first year. A committee involving staff from the Westinghouse Learning Corporation, Iowa Testing Programs, American College Testing Program, Lindquist Measurement Center, Division of Educational Psychology and Measurement, and the State Department of Public Instruction will provide the leadership and the expertise in this endeavor. Large numbers of persons will be involved in the assessment of needs in each center.

Public awareness programs and projects will be planned and developed during the summer. At least one such project will be planned for each region. In some cases a program that will

move to each of the population centers or the region during the course of the year will be planned. Community organizations as well as Iowa-based industries will be involved in the planning and execution of many of these programs.

Student programs will be coordinated with the Iowa Junior Academy of Science. An active regional program is being planned in each center. Many of these will include a direct relationship to statewide efforts. Six week summer camps and enrichment programs will provide a strong central core for student involvement and participation. Ultimately at least one teacher and/or community resource person from each region will be involved during the summer as well as a sizable student group. More and more cooperation with industries and service groups is desired and essential for the needed growth and support for these programs. New contacts with industries and service groups in Iowa are always welcomed. Contact with ASSIST headquarters regarding such suggestions will be investigated with dispatch.

Coordination and cooperative support and involvement is central to new pre-service efforts. As the number of new teachers needed each year decreases, the need for programs of higher quality is more apparent. The extent of cooperation among the twenty-eight colleges and the teaching coordinators in the sixteen ASSIST centers is yet to be identified and tried. Conversations and progress to date are promising.

In-Service efforts for improvement in schools is the most obvious activity for ASSIST. It is the one place where there are more ideas and suggestions than can possibly be supported either with financial or human resources during 1973-74. Undoubtedly, regional evaluation teams will have to make decisions and establish priorities. Certainly there is a limit to what can be planned during the summer and what can be implemented during the next academic year. Hopefully, all the ideas can be brought to fruition during future years.

With federal funding so precarious, it is difficult to predict the extent of future federal funding for ASSIST. It is felt, however, that the pilot year can be of great value in getting schools, colleges, and people talking, planning, and working together. The ultimate goal of statewide

improvement can probably be realized if persons of goodwill decide the goals are desirable and worthy of attainment. Improvement efforts may be helped with adequate funds but they cannot be halted altogether without such financial support.

ISU SCIENCE TEACHERS' SHORT COURSE

The annual Science Teachers' Short Course will be held at Iowa State University, March 2 and 3, 1973.

The Short Course is intended for secondary school science and mathematics teachers and is primarily concerned with current frontiers in science and the promotion of ideas and activities that hold high potential for use in the secondary school.

The General Session on Friday morning, March 2, will be devoted to the biological, physical and sociological aspects of the Energy Crisis. Seven departments - Biochemistry and Biophysics, Biology, Chemistry, Earth Science, Metallurgy, Physics and Statistics - will present programs on Friday afternoon and again on Saturday morning.

This year several small, informal "Rap Sessions" will be held for the purpose of providing teachers with an opportunity to discuss and exchange ideas concerning secondary school science and mathematics education.

Teachers interested in Project Physics will meet at 1 p.m. on Saturday, March 3.

Several brochures concerning the details of the Short Course will be mailed to all science teachers and science supervisors in Iowa. Any person interested in receiving a brochure may do so by sending a note or postcard to:

Dr. Frederick P. DeLuca,
Iowa State University
Department of Earth Science
53 Science Hall
Ames, Iowa 50010
