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News and Notes - Physics Teacher Recognition Program

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formation write: Mr. Verner Jensen, Dept. of Science, State College of Iowa, Cedar Falls, Iowa.

Physics Teacher Recognition Program

The American Association of Physics Teachers, with the support of the Carnegie Corporation, has developed a plan to give signal recognition and encouragement on a national basis to those high school teachers of physics who have outstanding competence in the subject they teach. It is deemed appropriate, indeed highly desirable, that some organization, such as AAPT, encourage excellence in subject matter preparation on the part of the teachers.

There are many inducements that lead a teacher to improve his status by becoming an administrator or by participation in some other activity, often extracurricular. Not enough attention has been given to the teacher who strives to enhance his mastery of his subject and who succeeds in doing so.

The selection of teachers who will receive the recognition plaque will be based principally on the score made on an examination designed explicitly for this program. It will require four hours. One-half of the time will be devoted to an objective (multiple choice) examination, the remaining two hours will be used in writing essay questions and solving problems. The examination will contain questions from the usual segments of physics, including some topics of recent advances in the science. Calculus will not be required for the solution of the problems. Sample questions will be available for those who request them. A letter asking for the sample questions may be sent to Teacher Recognition Program, J. W. Buchta, Chairman, 1201 16 Street, NW, Washington 36, D.C.

It is fully recognized that mastery of subject matter alone is not the only qualification of an effective teacher. Many other attributes are necessary. However, the Committee

responsible for this program decided it was not in a position to evaluate all the qualifications other than mastery of subject. Some inquiries will be made regarding the teaching of those who score high on the tests.

Mr. Herman H. Kirkpatrick of Des Moines Roosevelt and Mr. James E. Jones of Ames were the Iowa teachers honored in 1963. They were among the top 13% of the physics teachers who were involved with the test and the teacher recognition program for the year.

Iowa-U.S. Army Science Symposium

The U.S. Army Research Office and the Rock Island (Illinois) Weapons Command will again support a science symposium on the University of Iowa campus April 9, 10, and 11, 1964. 150 outstanding students and 50 outstanding teachers will be invited to attend from those nominated. All students' travel expenses and room and board while on the S.U.I. campus will be paid from the grant.

In addition to the presentation of outstanding science research papers by high school students, the program will include an address by Professor James A. Van Allen and other outstanding scientists. Students will have the opportunity for small group meetings with S.U.I. professors and to visit research facilities.

For further information write to
Dr. T. R. Porter
Science Education
University of Iowa
Iowa City, Iowa 52240

Scientific Manuscript Competition To Remind You

The Iowa Junior Academy of Science has for its purpose the fostering and promotion of scientific interest among students of junior and senior high school levels and the sharing of scientific information gathered by the individual and group club members.

One medium by which the I.J.A.S. attains this purpose is the Scientific Research Papers. The rules formulated for these papers were printed