



Intelligent Design network, inc.

P.O. Box 14702, Shawnee Mission, Kansas 66285-4702
(913) 268-0852; IDnet@att.net
www.IntelligentDesignnetwork.org

Seeking Objectivity in Origins Science

PRESS RELEASE

MEMBERS OF SCIENCE STANDARDS COMMITTEE URGE OBJECTIVITY IN ORIGINS SCIENCE

Contact: John Calvert (913-268-0852)

Shawnee Mission Kansas, December 10, 2004: Today a group of eight scientists and educators serving on the Kansas Science Writing Committee delivered to the Kansas State Board of Education proposed revisions to Kansas Science Standards. These encourage the teaching of origins science consistent with the nature of scientific inquiry.

A key problem is that the principles of scientific inquiry relating to critical analysis reflected in the standards are not being applied to the sections dealing with evolution and origins. The proposed revisions correct this fundamental inconsistency.

The group posted the proposals at www.kansasscience2005.com.

Key suggestions include:

- * A re-instatement of an evidence-based definition of science which opens rather than limits scientific inquiry.
- * Learning objectives that will lead students to a more complete understanding of biological evolution.

“We are submitting our Proposals at this time because we believe they reflect a significant and substantive viewpoint that should be considered by the Board and the Public during the public comment period that will commence in January,” said Jay Nicholson, PhD, an entomologist and science instructor.

The scientists and educators are members of a 26 member science writing committee appointed last May by the KSBE. The proposals seek further revisions to Draft 1 of standards issued by the Co-chairs of the Committee to the Board on December 7, 2004. The extent of committee support for Draft 1 is uncertain given the lack of any vote by the committee as a whole on that draft.

“The crux of our disagreement is over the mission of Kansas education. We believe it should objectively inform rather than present a biased point of view,” said William Harris, PhD, a research biochemist and Professor of Medicine. “We need to teach more about evolution, not less. Whether it is global warming or evolution, the minds of teachers and students should be opened to current scientific research.”

“We are scientists and educators who believe that science should be objective,” said Richard Unruh a high school physics teacher. “This requires that explanations be driven by the evidence rather than religious doctrines or philosophical preconceptions such as Naturalism. Preconceptions tend to limit scientific inquiry.” John Yost, a science teacher, said: “This is a debate about whether true scientific inquiry should be applied to origins science in the same way that it is applied in other areas of science.”

“We do not believe the standards should include the teaching of intelligent design as an objective,” said Greg Lassy, a retired science teacher. “But, neither should it be prohibited. Teachers should use their discretion about that scientific alternative to evolution.”

The State Board is scheduled to vote on the Standards in June. Comments from the public are being solicited by the Board at meetings to be held in January. Comments may also be submitted by visiting www.kansasscience2005.com.

Intelligent Design network, inc. is a nonprofit organization that seeks objectivity in origins science. For more information go to: www.IntelligentDesignNetwork.org