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Press release : 2008 : 10 : 07 : Butler Helps Develop Research Scholarship Among Black Science Education Faculty

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Butler Helps Develop Research Scholarship Among Black Science Education Faculty



Filed under [eNews Newsletter](#) on Tuesday, October 07, 2008 by Author: Melanie Marquez.

Through a \$100,000 NSF-funded research program, Malcolm Butler, PhD, will participate as co-investigator on an initiative designed to improve K-12 teaching and learning through the development of research scholarship among Black science educators in the United States. Butler, associate professor of science education in the College of Education, focuses his research on multicultural science teacher education, professional development for teachers and science content for elementary school teachers.

The NSF award will fund a conference titled, "The African Diaspora: Developing Black Scholars in Science Education for the 21st Century in the United States."

The conference will develop a network of Black science education faculty members who research issues related to science teaching and learning and help establish teams of researchers to submit future proposals for federal funding. Another goal is to increase the number of Black science education faculty members who successfully publish scholarly writings about research on science teaching and learning. Through joint research efforts, results from the projects will contribute to the knowledge base in science teaching and learning and science teacher education.

As co-investigator of the project, Butler will design the evaluation instruments for the symposia and coordinate the evaluation of the symposia. He will submit paper presentations to other conferences and manuscript submissions to journals in science education such as the Journal of Research in Science Teaching.

The first round of funding is to support the symposium and organizers will seek additional financial support for follow-up activities and initiatives. The symposium is tentatively scheduled to take place in June 2009 in Atlanta, Ga. More than 30 participants are expected, representing more than 20 institutions of higher education and organizations involved with science education research.

Butler worked with the principal investigator, Mary Atwater, PhD, from the University of Georgia, on the initial conceptualization of the proposal. His experience with the Southeast Eisenhower Consortium for Mathematics and Science Education will bring a different perspective to this effort. Butler is the only researcher on the team educated at a Historically Black University, and he has expertise in elementary science education and in professional development of teachers' science content knowledge.

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