
SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Inez M. Tenenbaum, State Superintendent

Office of Public Information

Phone: 803-734-8815 Web: www.myschools.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, March 22, 2005 / SCCMS grant.doc

New math, science coalition receives grant to support planning summit April 14-15

EDITOR'S NOTE: More information about SCCMS is available online at www.sccoalition.org.

COLUMBIA – A newly formed statewide educational coalition has received a financial boost from two national organizations to assist in its efforts to strengthen K-12 math and science education.

South Carolina's Coalition for Mathematics and Science is one of seven state organizations to receive funding from NASA and the National Alliance of State Science and Mathematics Coalitions. The \$27,000 grant will be used to support a two-day summit April 14-15 to develop the coalition's work plans.

"This national support shows that we are on the right track with our efforts to improve our math and science programs," said State Superintendent of Education Inez Tenenbaum. "The summit will provide us with a forum to gather educators with top business and community leaders to begin developing a well-designed approach."

Tenenbaum said 100 leaders from business and industry, public policy, education and the community are being invited to the summit to be held in Columbia. Their input will help develop the Coalition's five main work areas: advocacy, professional development, research and development, instructional materials support and program evaluation.

The State Superintendent and the founding partners for South Carolina's Coalition for Mathematics and Science – BMW Manufacturing Co., DuPont, Michelin North America and Progress Energy – announced its creation earlier this month.

Other states receiving grants for their coalitions from NASA's Education Office State Summit Implementation Program (NSSIP) are Alabama, Colorado, Connecticut, Iowa, New Mexico and Tennessee.

The grants address the critical need to improve STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education for students in underserved and underrepresented communities.