

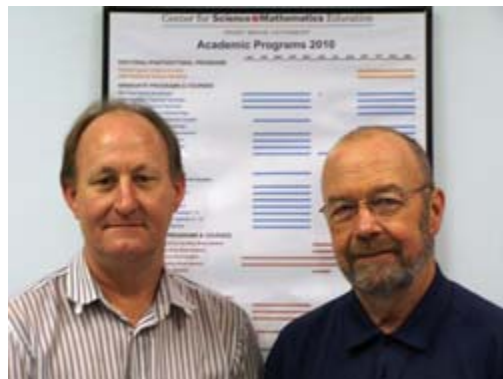
General University News

Stony Brook University Receives \$1.5 Million Award To Enhance Science Education

STONY BROOK, NY, May 28, 2010 – The Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) has awarded Stony Brook University a four year, \$ 1.5 million dollar grant to enhance science education. The award will be led by Professor of Biochemistry and Cell Biology David Bynum, who is also founder and Director of the Center for Science and Mathematics Education. HHMI, the largest private funder of science education in the nation, invited 197 research universities to submit proposals and selected 50 institutions to receive a total of \$70 million.

HHMI is committed to funding science education programs that excite students' interest in science," says HHMI President Robert Tjian. "We hope that these programs will shape the way students look at the world – whether these students ultimately choose to pursue a career in science or not."

With this funding, the Center will create undergraduate courses such as the Laboratory in Cancer Genetics, strengthen relationships with Cold Spring Harbor and Brookhaven National Laboratories, develop a partnership with the Center for Communicating Science in the School of Journalism, bring students from high-needs school districts into our laboratories, work with science teachers from across the State to bring state-of-the art science into the schools, create new opportunities for professional development for postdoctoral fellows, and provide funded research opportunities for students in our newly created Ph.D. program in science education.



Program Director and Associate Director of the Center, Dr. Keith Sheppard and Dr. David Bynum, Professor of Biochemistry and Cell Biology and founder and Director of the Center for Science and Mathematics Education.

"I am delighted that Stony Brook University has received this highly prized award," said Stony Brook University President Samuel L. Stanley, Jr., M.D. "It is an opportunity to provide first-rate science education and research experiences for our students and a recognition of our ability to continue to innovate and develop new opportunities"

The director of the Ph.D. program and Associate Director of the Center Dr. Keith Sheppard notes, "Having strength in the sciences plus the only doctoral program in science education on Long Island, we are attracting outstanding talent into our 2010 class. The strongest of these students will be awarded HHMI fellowships to assist them in developing strategies to improve science education in New York State and the nation. This is exactly the impact we want to make with our program and the Center."

Dr. Bynum says, "This grant, which we have received from HHMI since 1994, demonstrates the tangible commitment of HHMI and Stony Brook to our efforts. We have now received more than \$ 20 million in external funding and have created science education programs from pre-K to the postdoctoral levels. We are well on the way to becoming a global leader in science education."