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Director Speaks Out

by John Friedrich

[Editor's note: The Director was asked to describe what he would like NCSSM to become under his direction, what problems he sees, and what he plans to do about these problems. This is his response.]

NCSSM is a school developed through the vision of many people. As new director, I would like to add to the vision of what NCSSM could become.

NCSSM should be at the forefront in establishing effective computer science courses and requirements, since so many students will be involved in careers where mere literacy is insufficient.

Based on discussions with many computer science experts, I would recommend consideration of a course requirement in Pascal, Fortran or C.

Our science courses must become more interdisciplinary since 21st century scientists will intertwine technological applications of chemistry, physics, and biology to

develop entirely new courses of study.

I would like to see our school offer electronics, robotics, mentorship opportunities with industry, and more computer-aided design work. I would like to see the School of Science and Math offer more research opportunities for teachers and students both in and out of this school so that we can provide fresh information to teachers and students on the direction that science is taking.

I plan to work for the construction of an auditorium for NCSSM so that we can have great speakers, community meetings and artistic performances on our own campus. Our humanities program must upgrade its integral role in developing well-rounded, decision-makers of those with a strong scientific or mathematic interest.

You asked that I mention what problems I see at this time. The main problem that I see is that there is so much to do that is worthy of our efforts. It is important to me that NCSSM be a school

that can prove that it is worthy of existence, based on more than anecdotes. Therefore, I am trying to build the institutional research component of this school so that we can evaluate whether we provide a better education than other schools.

I already believe that we do provide a better service to students. For example, our math curriculum is heralded as being ahead of the national standards in mathematics. In reading the literature promoting ICM curriculum, I am extremely impressed by its quality and examples. However, I don't have data substantiating ICM quality based on our students' impressions and achievements.

We should have the data to show others that NCSSM is developing excellent people who have the ability to improve the future coupled with a feeling of responsibility for tomorrow. I want to be part of the most excellent school in the nation. The only way we can have the best school is to be able to prove it.



Advisors Visit

by Kristi Young

On January 25, two science advisors to President Bush visited NCSSM as part of an ongoing effort by the President to promote science, mathematics and technology awareness.

Dr. D. Allan Bromley and Dr. J. Thomas Ratchford, both members of the Office of Science and Technology Policy within the Executive Office of the President, met with students and staff of NCSSM to exchange ideas on the necessity of science education and awareness.

Bromley is the director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, and Ratchford is its assistant director. Bromley also serves as Assistant to the President for Science and Technology. Ratchford was formerly assoc-

iate executive officer of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and Technology, as well as a member of the Committee on Science and Technology of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Penny Espinoza, one of the students who met with the advisors, said of the meeting: "It was very interesting. They [Bromley and Ratchford] seemed really interested in what we had to say." She added that Bromley told the students that he would deliver any messages they had to Mr. Bush upon returning to Washington.

The Bush Administration decided to include NCSSM on their agenda because "it is the first such school in the nation and the most outstanding," stated Dr. Earl McCormac, science advisor to Governor Martin.

Budget Cut Affects School

by Teresa Lambe

After the statewide budget cuts, which resulted in an NCSSM budget reduction of 15.5%, there has been some speculation around campus as to the effects these cuts would have.

As the fourth quarter progresses, administrators, teachers, and students are beginning to feel the pressures associated with the loss of funding. Of course, some NCSSM departments have been affected more than others.

English teacher Susan Schmidt says her travel budget has been affected. "I am going to a conference for the school, but I'm paying for it myself," she said. As far as supplies go, the department has not been able to purchase some necessary textbooks.

The Media facility has

also begun to feel this air of awareness. "We try to be careful and cautious and encourage recycling," said a Media representative. "It has made it necessary to plan ahead."

Joe Liles from the art studio agrees, but thinks in the long run planning ahead might lead to even greater waste. "Many people saw the cuts coming—the state did the same thing last year," said Liles. "Because [some educators] saw it coming, many projected what they thought they'd need at the beginning of the year and spent it, so we didn't have any money left at the time of the cut." Liles, however, does not think this is the proper way to run an institution. "The way to spend money is to let your program run and see what you need . . . not to project. I mean, if you buy 25 tons of

toilet paper, and don't use it, then that leads to a lot of waste," he said.

According to Brenda Watson, the NCSSM library doesn't have any extra money to waste. "We don't see a tremendous effect as far as purchasing books, but other areas like equipment and furnishings will be affected." The question of future expansion concerns Watson as well. "My first concern is personnel . . . and losing part-time staff. We might not be able to buy other advanced technology either."

The English and Art art departments, the media center, and the library may be feeling the crunch, but other areas have been more fortunate.

Dr. Lutz says the mathematics department has

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