

## **SCIENCE EDUCATION PROGRAM MISSION AND STRATEGIC PLAN**

The Science Education Program Area in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction aspires to collaborate on issues associated with the discovery, learning, and engagement process by linking theory and practice in a wide variety of science education contexts. The program area seeks to continue the emphasis on joint appointments, integration with the College of Science, and a strong focus on science content for elementary education majors. The program area also seeks to maintain its long tradition of excellence in visibility among peer institutions and leadership in professional organizations and journals.

### **The Science Education Program fulfills its mission via a strategic plan which:**

1. Engages in discovery, learning, and engagement science education activities.
2. Provides science education experiences, built upon a common core of research and foundational knowledge, through innovative, coherent programs that include: diverse and field-based experiences, the infusion of technology, the integration of content and pedagogy, and ongoing assessment.
3. Fosters university-wide, national, and world-wide science education collaboration.
4. Reflects diverse and international science education perspectives
5. Prepares science education professionals at both the undergraduate and graduate levels for K-12, higher education, community, business, and government positions.

### **Our Strategic Plan:**

1. Engages in activities such as:
  - a. publications in the areas of discovery, learning, and engagement in top quality science education journals (as measured by acceptance rates) and textbooks
  - b. external grants to conduct needed activities as measured by total grant dollars acquired
  - c. teaching quality courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels as measured by student and peer evaluations
  - d. engagement activities for a variety of audiences including the K-12 community, junior college community, and informal education community as measured by number of contacts with those constituencies
2. Provides science education experiences via:
  - a. Quality, accredited undergraduate and graduate science education programs
  - b. Specialized, discipline specific science education programs
3. Fosters collaboration via:
  - a. Publications in the top science education journals in the world
  - b. Presentations at science education professional organizations worldwide
  - c. Expanding visibility through increased collaboration with centers, programs, colleges, and schools across campus, nationally, and internationally

- d. Extramural funding to support science education faculty in the areas of discovery, learning, and engagement
- 4. Reflects diverse and international science education perspectives via:
  - a. Recruitment of undergraduate and graduate students to ensure a diverse and international population
  - b. Conducting seminars, acquiring journal editorships, and world travel to professional meetings
- 5. Prepares science education professionals via:
  - a. Recruiting and retaining quality faculty and students
  - b. Working collaboratively with our world community

### **Future Goals 2007-2012**

1. Return to appropriate levels of graduate student support commensurate with a program of this stature which will allow our program area to be more competitive with peer institutions in recruitment and retention of graduate students.
2. Increase the number of full time doctoral students in science education.
3. Develop new doctoral level science education courses that reflect interdisciplinary innovations in science education such as a nanoscience education doctoral seminar.