

# Science Education – Science and Careers

Improving society's education about science is essential to the goal of advancing science and technology to ensure a better world for everyone. AAAS aims to improve understanding through its two educational program areas: Education and Human Resources, and Project 2061. During 2003, AAAS education programs and partnerships made some important steps in promoting understanding of and engagement with science.

## **LIBRARY PROJECT BOOSTS HEALTH AWARENESS**

The Healthy People Library Project is designed to provide minority groups and other consumers easy access through libraries to current, reliable information on selected health topics. AAAS has developed seven plain-language health booklets for public libraries, as well as a tool kit to help them effectively use and promote the materials. All booklets are freely available at <http://www.healthlit.org>

## **SCIENCE UPDATE – A CLEAR WINNER**

Science Update is a 90-second radio feature produced by AAAS that reports on current scientific research and answers scientific questions from listeners. The program is heard coast to coast in the U.S. on over 300 radio stations. In 2003, Science Update earned two Crystal Awards of Excellence in the prestigious Communicator Awards Audio Competition, among other honors. (See <http://scienceupdate.org>)

## **SCIENCE LITERACY MESSAGE REACHING WIDE AUDIENCE**

The Partnership for Science Literacy aims to increase awareness among parents and families of the value of science literacy for all children. The partnership stepped up its public awareness initiative during 2003. Advertisements in both English and Spanish have appeared on television, as well as in magazines such as *Parents* and *National Geographic*. (See <http://tryscience.org>)

## **PORTAL BRINGS BIOSCIENCE TEACHING TO LIFE**

In 2003, the BioSciEdNet (BEN) Collaborative launched its BEN portal site (<http://www.bioscienet.org>), a digital library of teaching resources for biological sciences teachers. Managed by AAAS, BEN offers access to the biology education resources of its 21 partners. Over 2,500 reviewed resources covering 74 biological sciences topics are now available. The BEN Collaborative is composed of 11 professional societies and coalitions for biology education, spearheaded by AAAS.

## **TECHNOLOGY GAP NEEDS AFFIRMATIVE OPPORTUNITIES**

Filling the science and technology gap has been an important focus during 2003. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in support of generalized programs to promote underrepresented minorities in science and engineering, yet targeted recruitment efforts came under fire. Shirley Ann Jackson, now AAAS president, has worked to highlight the underrepresentation of women and minorities in the sciences, engineering and technology, and to emphasize the importance of diverse talent.

## **GRADUATE SCHOLARS PROGRAM PROMOTES SCIENTIFIC WELL-BEING**

The consideration of diverse perspectives is essential to the future health of science. During 2003, AAAS took over the Graduate Scholars Program, supported by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. The program assists graduates of historically black colleges and universities who are pursuing doctoral degrees in the sciences, mathematics and engineering.

## **FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION**

This year marked the 30th anniversary of the Science and Technology Policy Fellowships Program. The fellowships have continued to increase in scope – AAAS now sponsors 10 programs that give postdoctoral to mid-career scientists and engineers the opportunity to contribute to the U.S. government's public policymaking process. A new fellowship within the Department of Homeland Security was established in 2003. Meanwhile, the AAAS Mass Media Science and Engineering Fellows Program is also approaching its anniversary as it strengthens connections between scientists and journalists. The program places advanced science, mathematics and engineering students in newsrooms across the country each summer.

## **SCIENCE CAREERS JUST THE JOB**

*Science Careers*, the online recruitment service of *Science*, strengthens the industry through its services to scientists and recruiters. Resources such as job postings, career advice and meetings and announcements generated millions of visits to the *Science Careers* website during 2003.

## **PROJECT 2061 ALIGNING K-12 ASSESSMENTS**

Project 2061 is a long-term initiative dedicated to helping reform K-12 education in the United States to ensure that all high-school graduates are literate in science, mathematics and technology. The project was founded in 1985 – the year Halley's Comet was last visible from Earth. The comet will return in 2061. An important focus in 2003 has been to develop new strategies and tools for evaluating the alignment of K-12 assessments in science and mathematics with national and state standards and benchmarks.

## Qs & As

with Jo Ellen Roseman  
Director of Project 2061



## Qs & As

with Shirley M. Malcom  
Director of Education and Human Resources



**WHO'S HELPING  
ADVANCE EDUCATION  
IN THE SCIENCES?**



**Q** How does AAAS help young scientists get the support they need?

**A** One way is through promoting and recognizing mentoring. AAAS works to foster understanding of the importance of mentoring in developing a broad base of scientific talent. AAAS mentoring awards recognize good practices.

**Q** How does AAAS help to ensure everyone gets access to health information?

**A** Through developing accessible materials and encouraging others to do the same.

**Q** How does AAAS support informal science learning?

**A** Through a range of innovative projects such as Kinetic City, an Internet-based after-school program, and the award-winning Science Update radio program.

**Q** How does AAAS support science teachers?

**A** With no-cost online education resources including Science NetLinks and BioSciEdNet (BEN).