

## Status of New Mexico Project 2012

The New Mexico Math and Science Advisory Council (MSAC) completed version 1.0 of the plan in November, 2008. A one-page summary of the document is attached. The full version is available on the web at [www.sfafs.org/nmproject2012\\_documentation.asp](http://www.sfafs.org/nmproject2012_documentation.asp).

During the 2009 legislative session two bills were introduced in support of Project 2012. They were:

- **HB322:** “An Act Relating To School Personnel; Increasing The Mathematics Requirement For Persons Seeking Licensure Or Reciprocity In Elementary Education.” This bill increases the required number of credit hours in mathematics required for licensure as an elementary school teacher from 6 to 9. The bill, carried by Representative Janice Arnold Jones on behalf of Secretary of Education Veronica García, passed the House unanimously and the Senate by 38-1.
- **SB273:** “An Act Making An Appropriation To Fund Training, Development And Recruitment Of Elementary And High School Teachers Of Reading, Mathematics And Science And To Promote Public Awareness Of The Importance Of Reading, Mathematics And Science Education.” This bill requested an appropriation of \$4,049,500 to (1) continue the summer Reading, Math and Science professional development institutes [\$2,500,000]; (2) to revise teacher education programs and to create a system of incentives to attract more New Mexico college and university students to elementary and high school mathematics and science teaching careers [\$1,204,500]; (3) to provide travel expenses for volunteers and incentives to public schools to support subject-matter expert volunteers to assist teaching of mathematics and science subjects in public schools and to mentor public school teachers and students in those subjects [\$240,000]; (4) to begin a public awareness campaign to emphasize the importance of mathematics and science education for students and the state [\$60,000]; and (5) to convene a statewide conference to develop an implementation plan for improving mathematics and science teacher education in New Mexico [\$45,000]. This bill died in committee, but the largest part of the request (item 1 above) was transferred to the Governor’s bill (HB2) and was passed essentially intact.

So in spite of a very tough budget year in 2009, Project 2012 did quite well.

MSAC is planning an extensive set of activities for next year in order to advance Project 2012. These include: (1) making some revisions of the document based on community input and the need to keep it up to date; (2) developing a suite of legislative requests that will advance Project 2012 goals; and (3) holding state-wide meetings among all stakeholders on issues such as how best to redesign entry-level math and science content competencies for pre-service teachers, and how best to create an implementation plan for improving K-12 math and science teacher education in New Mexico.

MSAC meetings are open to the public at all times. The MSAC schedule can be found at: [www.ped.state.nm.us/MathScience/msac.html](http://www.ped.state.nm.us/MathScience/msac.html). Your input is important and is certainly welcomed.

Bob Eisenstein, Chair, MSAC