

PRESS RELEASE

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AdvanceKentucky Moves Ahead of State and National Achievement Levels on Advanced Placement Exams in Math, Science and English

Frankfort, KY – The 2009 Advanced Placement* results are in, and they confirm that a new, concerted effort has dramatically boosted student achievement on demanding national AP exams. AdvanceKentucky is a new Kentucky initiative in partnership with the National Math and Science Initiative (NMSI), Kentucky Department of Education and Kentucky Science and Technology Corporation.

The first 12 Kentucky high schools in the program earned 768 passing scores on the 2009 AP math, science and English exams, which is an increase of 76.6 percent above the previous year and well above state rate of 17.5 percent and the national rate of 5.7 percent. This means that AdvanceKY program schools performed at 13 times the national rate. They contributed almost one-third of Kentucky's *new* AP math, science, English passing scores above last year and nearly one-half of the *new* passing scores earned by Kentucky low-income students. More than one-half of Kentucky's *new* passing scores in AP math and science earned by females came from these 12 schools.

“These results are proof that more rigorous math and science programs can be replicated successfully nationwide. This program is going to open the doors to college for many more students,” said Tom Luce, CEO of NMSI.

The AP test scores were reported by the College Board to the high schools in Kentucky and five other states selected to participate in the vanguard AP Training and Incentive Program (APTIP). Those results show that the combination of enhanced teaching training, teacher incentives, student scholarships, student prep sessions and master teacher mentoring can dramatically increase the number of students succeeding in college level work.

High schools that participated in this first year of the program are Anderson County, Barren County, Corbin Independent, Henderson County, Lone Oak, Marion County, North Laurel, Reidland, Scott County, Shelby County, South Laurel, and Warren East.

“The results from these 12 pioneer schools are a proud reflection of Kentucky’s capacity to invest in its people with measureable returns,” says Helen Mountjoy, Secretary of the Education and Workforce Cabinet. “This success signals a culture of high expectations – and rising up to meet them.”

**The date of this press release/conference coincides with Kentucky Department of Education’s release of all 2009 College Board data. AP and Advanced Placement Program are registered trademarks of the College Board, which was not involved in the production of this product.*

Kentucky and national results for NMSI's AP Training and Incentive Program demonstrate that:

- Greater numbers of Kentucky students can achieve passing grades on AP tests, thereby increasing their chance of success in college;
- Many more students than before can be brought into more demanding math, science and English classes and perform well with the support of this program;
- This program helps larger numbers of high school students who are traditionally underserved in math and science – low-income, women and minorities – succeed in college-level coursework; and
- A rigorous math and science program that is strategically supervised can be replicated statewide.

“Eighty percent of the jobs of the future will require an educational background in math or science, so it is imperative that we increase students’ interest in these subjects and give them the instructional support to help them master the more challenging material and go on to succeed in college,” Luce said.

NMSI, a non-profit organization based in Dallas, was launched in 2007 by top leaders in business, education, and science to reverse the United States’ troubling decline in math and science education.

NMSI’s mission is to expand programs that have proven success in math and science education across the United States. The initial focus is on replicating two programs that each have more than 10 years of data proving they work: the AP Training and Incentive Program and UTeach, a program to recruit and prepare college students to become qualified math, science and computer science teachers, including at Western Kentucky University.

Major support for this ground-breaking national initiative has come from the Exxon Mobil Corporation, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Michael and Susan Dell Foundation, with in-kind assistance provided by IBM and Perot Systems.

“ExxonMobil would like to commend AdvanceKentucky and its partners for the tremendous gains already achieved. This is a shining example of what is possible when effective programs are undertaken to improve math and science education and create brighter futures for our young people.”

AP, a program of the New York-based College Board, offers high school students the opportunity for college credit in more than 30 subjects, ranging from high-level math and science to fine arts, if they score well on a standardized end-of-course exam.

For more information, visit advanceky.com. For more about NMSI see nationalmathandscience.org or contact Rena Pederson, NMSI Communications Director, at (214) 665-2523 or rpederson@nationalmathandscience.org.

AdvanceKentucky Year-One Performance Highlights

Twelve (12) AdvanceKentucky schools earned 768* math, science, English (MSE) qualifying scores (QS) on the 2009 Advanced Placement exams. From 2008 to 2009, these schools:

Overall

- Increased by 77% the number of MSE QS, compared to 17% statewide, *accounting for 32% of state's total new MSE QS, while representing only 7% of Kentucky's high school enrollments.*
- Earned more MSE QS in 2009 than in the prior two years combined.
- Increased by 76% the number of MSE exams taken, compared to 20% statewide, *accounting for 31% of the state's new MSE exams taken.*
- Exceeded state and national MSE QS per 1000 juniors and seniors.

Low-Income

- Increased by 148% the number of MSE QS earned by low-income students, compared to 26% statewide, *accounting for 48% of the state's new MSE QS earned among these students.*
- Increased by 217% the number of exams taken by low-income students, compared to 23% statewide, *accounting for 52% of the state's new MSE exams taken by low-income students.*

Females

- Increased by 112% the number of females earning math and science QS, compared to 12% statewide, *accounting for 52% of state's new math and science QS earned by females.*
- Increased 71% the number of math and science exams taken by females, compared to 18% statewide, *accounting for 34% of state's new math and science exams taken by females.*

Minorities

- Increased by 225% the number of AP MSE QS earned by minorities, compared to 31% statewide, *accounting for 15% of the state's new MSE QS earned by minority students.*
- Increased by 83% in the number of AP MSE exams taken by minorities, compared to 42% statewide, *accounting for 11% of state's new MSE exams taken by minority students.*

Math-Science –English

- Increased the number of AP QS earned in math by 80%, science by 42%, English by 86%.
- Increased the number of AP exams taken in math by 57%, science by 63%, English by 93%.

All Subjects

- Increased by 57% the number of AP QS in all subjects, compared to 21% statewide.

**Scores on three AP science exams have not been reported to one school as of this writing.*

**AdvanceKY (12 Schools) Exceeds State & National Increases
 in Math, Science, English (MSE) Qualifying Scores (QS)**

