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NC-MSEN Receives the SMT Partnership Award

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On Saturday April 18, 2009, the North Carolina Mathematics and Science Network (NC-MSEN) was honored with the SMT Partnership Award in Science, Mathematics, and Technology Education, bestowed by the North Carolina Science, Mathematics, and Technology (SMT) Education Center. The SMT Center hosted its annual "Celebration of Science, Mathematics and Technology Education" at the Embassy Suites Raleigh/Durham Hotel in Cary. Following a reception, formal dinner, and video tribute to NC-MSEN, Dr. Rebecca Garland, Chief Academic Officer at the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction presented the SMT Partnership Award to Dr. Alan Mabe, Vice President for Academic Planning and University-School Programs, UNC-General Administration. On hand were Dr. Verna L. Holoman, NC-MSEN Executive Director; Professional Development Center Directors; Pre-College Program Coordinators; and NC-MSEN Central Office Administrative Staff.

Dr. Sam Houston, Jr., President and CEO of the SMT Center, announced the award and congratulated NC-MSEN, noting that "The selection panel was impressed by the unique partnership between the ten NC-MSEN Professional Development Centers and the nine NC-MSEN Pre-College Program Sites. The countless students and teachers that have participated in either pre-college or professional development programs provided through the partnership have benefited from the shared strengths of the partnership as well as the individual qualities of each site."

In addition to the ten Professional Development Centers and nine Pre-College Program sites, NC-MSEN has a Center for Research in Mathematics and Science. Since its inception in 1984, NC-MSEN has partnered with the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction on a broad range of professional development initiatives, and has channeled over \$45 million in grant funding to professional development and pre-college program activities in North Carolina.

“The honor is especially meaningful as the Network celebrates its 25th Anniversary,” said Dr. Holoman of the SMT Partnership Award. “What an opportune time. It also is important to know that others have noticed the worthiness of NC-MSEN’s ongoing contributions to ‘more and better teachers’ and ‘access to higher education,’ as envisioned by the UNC Tomorrow Commission. The NC-MSEN looks forward to continuing its work with current and future partners, including the SMT Center, to ensure that the citizens of North Carolina understand the importance of high quality mathematics and science teaching and learning. It is a ‘tall’ order that needs to and can be filled through the perseverance and dedication that the SMT Awards signify.”

Celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, NC-MSEN is a constituent program in the UNC Center for School Leadership Development, UNC-General Administration. NC-MSEN has two primary components: teacher professional development and a Pre-College Program. It provides statewide leadership for the improvement of mathematics and science teaching and learning in order to: 1) strengthen the quality and increase the size of the teaching base in science and mathematics education and 2) increase the pool of students who graduate from North Carolina’s high schools prepared to pursue majors that lead to careers in mathematics, science, technology, engineering and teaching.

For more information about NC-MSEN, visit **www.unc.edu/depts/msen**.