

January 9, 2009

Twelve Educators Elected to Leadership Fellows Program

The National Fellowship Board, led by David Ferguson of Stony Brook University, has elected twelve educators to join the SENCER Leadership Fellows Program. As SENCER Leadership Fellows, these educators will pursue projects of their own design and choosing to improve STEM education on campus and in their local regions. They will serve as leaders and resources on campus for colleagues who are new to SENCER and will work with local SENCER Centers for Innovation on symposia and workshops to disseminate SENCER programs and approaches. Fellows also contribute their expertise to areas of new development for SENCER and the National Center for Science and Civic Engagement.

Many of the elected Fellows have already been visible leaders in the SENCER community, whether in regional organizations, as part of the Summer Institute, or as model developers. Each new Fellow will contribute great expertise to NCSCE and the SENCER community, and we look forward to sharing updates of their work over the next year and a half.

Sharon Anthony is an associate professor of environmental science and chemistry at Northland College who has been involved with SENCER for several years. During her fellowship, Sharon will focus her attention on three projects that involve collaborations on and off-campus. She plans to structure a month-long intensive course, *Chemistry of Natural Waters*, around water quality and associated issues of the Bad River Watershed. With colleagues, Sharon will develop projects for students in a two-year long learning community centered on food and agricultural issues. For a general chemistry course, Sharon is further refining a three-week module that pushes students to investigate and debate whether or not we should eat fish. (SCI-Midwest)

Peter Bower, senior lecturer in environmental science at Barnard College, is the author of the SENCER model *Brownfield Action*. Peter and his colleagues at other colleges have revised the original model and presented on their progress to participants in the 2008 SENCER Summer Institute. Over the next 18 months, Peter will continue to reach out to new audiences, including high schools, to disseminate the model course. (SCI-Midatlantic)

Alan Christian, director of the environmental studies program at the University of Massachusetts Boston, became involved with SENCER during his time at Arkansas State University. At ASU, Alan worked on revisions of core courses for the environmental studies program to incorporate civic engagement and responsibility into the curricula. At UMass, Alan will share the SENCER approach with colleagues on campus and will reach out to build new partnerships with other organizations. Within the environmental studies program, he plans to develop several SENCERized courses, including a freshman sequence and a capstone course. (SCI-New England)

Pearl Fernandes is an associate professor of biology at the University of South Carolina Sumter who has long been associated with the SENCER project. She is an author of *Life Science in Context: Sub-Saharan Africa & HIV/AIDS*, a multiple institution collaboration, and serves on the Leadership Council for the SCI-South. As a Leadership Fellow, Pearl will continue to serve as a resource for faculty in the USC system, as well as colleagues at other institutions, and will specifically share information about the modules she has developed. (SCI-South)

Matthew Laposata is an associate professor of environmental science at Kennesaw State University who has been involved with SENCER since the first Institutes. In the past several years, Matthew has had extensive experience with the granting process from all sides – as a reviewer, an administrator, and a writer. As a Fellow, Matthew plans to leverage his expertise in preparing federal and private grant proposals for teaching and learning projects to help members of the SENCER community be more successful in gaining support for their programs. He will pilot this program within his regional area, and will expand to all areas at a later date. (SCI-South)

Dennis Lehman, professor emeritus and special assistant to the president of Harold Washington College, is a co-director of the SENCER Center for Innovation-Midwest and has been a leader in the SENCER Project. He has supported the development of numerous courses at the College and has actively disseminated the SENCER approach to educators at HWC and in the greater Chicago area. During his Fellowship, Dennis will supervise the creation of 10-20 new SENCER courses at HWC as part of a joint project with Roosevelt University. He is also helping to coordinate SSI 2009, which will be hosted by HWC in August. (SCI-Midwest)

Jonathan Lyon is an associate professor of biology at Merrimack College where he has been involved in SENCER activities with colleagues on campus and has organized his courses for both STEM majors and students majoring in other disciplines around ecological issues. As a fellow, Jonathan will continue to share his experience with colleagues on campus and assist other educators adopting SENCER principles in their courses, especially those that are part of the new major and minor in environmental studies/sustainability. He also anticipates developing collaborations with community organizations to expand student opportunities to address watersheds and sustainability. (SCI-New England)

Glenn Odenbrett is the coordinator of Collaborative Learning for Environmental Action (CLEAN) for the Western Reserve Resource Conservation and Development Council. Since 2006, Glenn has been an active member of the SENCER community, disseminating information about the approach especially to colleges and universities in Northeast Ohio. As a Leadership Fellow, Glenn will focus his attention on environmental stewardship issues concerning Northeast Ohio and the Great Lakes Basin and encourage colleges and universities to integrate these issues into curricula. He will serve as a consultant for local colleges and universities, present workshops, and develop CLEAN Collaborative Clusters. (SCI-Midwest)

Pamela Proulx-Curry, the executive director of the Wisconsin Campus Compact (WiCC), has been involved in the SENCER community for the past three years. Pamela has extensive experience in STEM education, K-16 partnerships, and professional development for educators. During her fellowship she will incorporate a SENCER track into an annual statewide service-learning and civic engagement conference and will contribute her expertise to both the SCI-Midwest and the national program. (SCI-Midwest)

Rikki Wagstrom is an assistant professor of mathematics at Metropolitan State University. Since first becoming involved with SENCER, Rikki has developed and piloted a new curriculum for a college algebra course that focuses on environmental sustainability, and has taken part in the scholarship of teaching and learning program. As a Fellow, Rikki plans to further enhance Math 101, mentor adjunct faculty, work with colleagues to increase retention in math, and present her work to colleagues at national meetings. She will also develop an activity on product lifecycle analysis for a math/science camp for middle school-aged girls with a pre-service teacher. (SCI-Midwest)

Kelly Wentz-Hunter, assistant professor of biology at Roosevelt University, has been involved with SENCER since beginning her time at RU. She modified a cellular and molecular biology course after attending her first Summer Institute, and has since designed an upper level course on cancer biology. Kelly plans to present sessions on the SENCER approach and her course revisions/creations to colleagues on campus, regionally, and nationally, and to submit manuscripts on findings from course assessments to peer-reviewed journals. She will also continue to work with her colleagues on-campus to develop new, interdisciplinary courses that incorporate civic engagement. (SCI-Midwest)

Thomas Zachariah, associate professor of mathematics at Loyola Marymount University, is the co-author of the SENCER model course *Quantitative Literacy Through Community-Based Group Projects*. Thomas, with his colleagues Jackie Dewar and Suzanne Larson, have presented on their model course at SENCER national symposia, a Lilly-West Conference, and the International Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Conference. As a Leadership Fellow, Thomas will work with colleagues to incorporate the SENCER approach into the LEAP program, a living/learning community for first-year biology and natural science students. (SCI-West)