

## **SENCER E-News September 5, 2008**

### **Burns and Oates Honored for Contribution to STEM Education**

David Burns and Karen Oates have been selected to receive the 2008 Bruce Alberts Award for Excellence in Science Education by the American Society for Cell Biology. They were chosen “in recognition of the tremendous impact of their innovative program, SENCER,” on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education. David Burns is the principal investigator of SENCER and executive director of the National Center for Science and Civic Engagement. Karen Oates served as co-principal investigator of SENCER until her appointment to the National Science Foundation’s Division of Undergraduate Education in the summer of 2007.

The annual award honors exceptional contributions to science education, and is named for Bruce Alberts, the distinguished former president of the National Academy of Sciences, current editor in chief of *Science*, and professor at the University of California, San Francisco. Past recipients include Patricia J. Pukkila of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Samuel Silverstein of Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, and Virginia Shepherd of Vanderbilt University.

“This is a great honor and reflects the remarkable work of members of the SENCER community, who have always been, and will continue to be, the intellectual capital of this project,” Burns said. The award will be presented during the Annual Meeting of the American Society for Cell Biology on December 14th in San Francisco.

### **San Francisco Chronicle Features *Slow Food* Model Course**

The 2007 addition to the model series, created by Marion Fass of Beloit College, was highlighted in an article on Friday, August 29th for its work of encouraging students to consider the consequences of food consumption and production. The article, accessible at <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2008/08/29/MNKQ12K54L.DTL>, was part of the coverage on the Slow Food Nation festival in San Francisco.

### **NCSCE Invites Nominations and Applications for SENCER Leadership Fellows**

Following the appointment of a strong inaugural class of Fellows this summer, we welcome all interested educators to apply for the next round of Fellowships. During the 18-month terms, Fellows work on projects of their choice to improve STEM education on campus and serve as mentors for colleagues new to the SENCER approach. Applications and nominations can be submitted easily through the [SENCER website](#), and are due by October 20, 2008.

### **SCI-Midatlantic Fall Symposium Set**

The SCI-Midatlantic will co-sponsor a symposium at Franklin & Marshall College on October 4th, “Preparing the Undergraduates of Tomorrow: The Critical Role of K-8 STEM Education.” There is no cost to attend, but registration is required. Please see the [SCI-Midatlantic web page](#).

### **Conference on Learning Communities Open for Registration**

The Atlantic Center for Learning Communities will hold a retreat on October 22-24, 2008 at the Passionist Spiritual Center of Riverdale (Bronx, NY). Karen Oates, former SENCER PI, will deliver the keynote address and Ellen Goldey of Wofford College will coordinate several workshops at the event. For more information, please visit <http://www.wagner.edu/aclc/>.