

# Archived Information

## National Alliance of State Science & Mathematics Coalitions

### PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

NASSMC is an umbrella organization representing the 38 state coalitions of business, education and public policy leaders working within the states to enhance mathematics, science and technology education. Recent concern that the critical needs in mathematics and science education might be dimming on the public's radar prompted NASSMC to begin developing in September of 2002, a public awareness and engagement assistance project for its member coalitions.

This project will be announced at NASSMC's Directors Meeting/Annual Conference April 1-2. A collaboration between NASSMC and Annenberg/CPB for assisting coalitions in the development of public awareness is a part of that effort and will also be announced at the annual conference. The conference theme is: State Coalitions and National Policy: Opportunities for Building Public Engagement. (Note: We have invited Dr. Susan Sclafani to address the group on the Secretary's Mathematics and Science Initiative.)

NASSMC member organizations will be invited to submit short proposals for development of comprehensive public awareness action plans focusing attention to the challenges faced in mathematics and science education. To implement these action plans, the resources of NASSMC, Annenberg/CPB, sister coalitions in other states, and (if additional funding can be found) professional public relations/media services will be made available to the state organizations. NASSMC will support as many of these proposals as staff time and travel funds will permit.

NASSMC also maintains and distributes the NASSMC Briefing Service NBS is an Internet-based information resource that provides brief, timely, crisply-formatted summaries of important mathematics, science, and technology education (MSTE) issues addressed in the national press. Each Briefing Service entry is categorized using one of twelve keywords/phrases that best indicates the general thrust of the item. The NASSMC Briefing Service articles are distributed daily via email to more than 200 distribution nodes. These distribution nodes may be individuals or organizations. Among them are NASA, the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, NSTA, NCTM and the Triangle Coalition. These articles are concise summaries of major news stories related to mathematics and science education. A Living Archive of NBS briefs has been created with seven searchable databases. We estimate that through redistribution, the service reaches over 50,000 readers in all 50 states and is used as a public information and engagement tool.