



For Immediate Release
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The Elementary Science Coalition Calls for an Education Revolution
*Broad-based advocacy organization launches efforts on behalf
of elementary science in the U.S.*

March 4, 2008 – The Elementary Science Coalition (ESC) this week called for a complete overhaul of the nation’s elementary science education system, saying a revolution is needed to ensure our children receive a quality science education.

“The Elementary Science Coalition will be on the front lines of that revolution,” said ESC Executive Director Rita Ferrandino. “Through lobbying efforts, public awareness campaigns, support for professional development best practices, ESC will be leading the charge, changing the way that elementary science is valued in this country.”

At an ESC event held this week, some of the nation’s leading educators gathered to join their voices to the ESC’s rallying cry, including U.S. Representatives Vernon Ehlers (R-MI) and Rush Holt (D-NJ).

“America’s position as the world’s leader in innovation and ingenuity did not happen by accident, and it’s not a birthright. Our economic future depends upon the investments we make in tomorrow’s workforce,” Holt said, calling upon science advocates to work to mobilize public awareness and interest in the world-changing possibilities inherent in science and technology.

The Congressmen, both congressional leaders in education, called upon the American people to become science education advocates on behalf of the nation’s children and challenge legislators to focus resources and funding toward elementary science education.

Statistics for current elementary science education are grim, including:

- Science instruction has decreased by half since 2000 in many elementary schools.
- 42% of elementary school teachers feel unprepared to teach science.
- Elementary school teachers receive little to no professional development in science education.
- Most current elementary science lessons are of low quality.
- In a recent survey, almost half the school districts reported no capacity to support science education in house.

Guest speakers at the event, including Dr. Jeanne Century, Director of Science Education, The Center for Elementary Math and Science Education, University of Chicago; Marsha Winegarner, State Coordinator for the National Science Teachers Association’s Building a Presence Program in Florida; and Joan Abdallah, Program Director of K-12 Programs, American Association for the Advancement of Science; all agreed that elementary science education is currently in crisis.

The Coalition is still accepting members, and welcomes queries from organizations and corporations in the education, science, and technology industries. Please contact Executive Director Rita Ferrandino at rita@arccd.com or (941) 921-1663 to join the science revolution.



About The Elementary Science Coalition

The Elementary Science Coalition is a not-for-profit group of educators, educational publishing companies, and corporations with a vested interest in a strong scientific workforce, working together to bring national focus to elementary science education, with support from Carmen Group, Inc. a leading federal lobbying and government relations firm. The Coalition lobbies at the federal level and engages in public outreach to teachers, administrators, parents, and concerned citizens. For the earliest information about the Elementary Science Coalition, please visit <http://arccd.com/modules/cms/pages.phtml?pageid=30182>

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