



## Intelligent Design network, inc.

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*Seeking Institutional Objectivity in Origins Science*

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### NEWS RELEASE:

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### **IDnet Applauds New Kansas Science Standards**

The approval today by the Kansas Board of Education of science standards that seek to teach Darwin honestly should be heralded as a major advance in public education. No longer will Darwin be taught dogmatically in Kansas public schools. Scientific evidence, not philosophical presuppositions, will now guide the presentation of the data for and against each aspect of the Darwinian theory.

School children in Kansas will now learn that evolutionary theory can be understood as resting on a three-legged stool. One leg is microevolution (change within a species) where the evidence is quite strong and non-controversial. Another leg is macroevolution (the appearance of complex cellular systems and new body plans), and the third is chemical evolution (i.e., the origin of life from non-living chemicals). The changes approved by the Board affirm the first leg and acknowledge the adequacy of random mutation and natural selection to explain microevolutionary changes. The changes will also inform students of the concerns voiced by many scientists about the adequacy of those mechanisms to explain both the second and third legs of the stool. Only with a clear understanding of the different components of evolutionary theory, and the strength/weaknesses of each, will students be able to make an informed decision regarding this controversial and important biological concept.

The changes to the standards, which were found to be scientifically valid and educationally appropriate by 23 experts in the May hearings, go a long way to advance science education and at the same time remove a subtle, but significant, form of religious/philosophical indoctrination. The changes will inform students about the science of origins rather than indoctrinate them in materialism, a philosophy that is at the core of non-theistic religious beliefs.

The action of the Board is being applauded by teachers seeking to remove fear of presenting Darwin honestly from the class room, by students seeking an interesting rather than boring science education, and by parents demanding that public education be a vehicle that informs rather than one that indoctrinates.

We encourage the bastions of science and public information who decry the changes to get a grip on their passion and begin to look at the real scientific substance of the changes. Good science focuses on the data rather than its religious and philosophical implications. Good science encourages an honest and no-holds barred investigation rather than character assassination. Good science follows the data wherever it leads.

As scientists begin to more fully understand the genome and appreciate its astonishing architecture, they are finding indescribably complex nano information-processing systems that have been “engineered” to exquisitely fine tolerances. Just as medieval scientists stopped spending resources on trying to turn lead into gold, we should begin to question the wisdom of spending tax dollars on efforts to promote an origins story that is increasingly suspect and religiously-biased. We are learning that material causes are not adequate to explain biological information, and that new ways of thinking are essential if science is to find cures for killer diseases and develop new vaccines. The Kansas Board should be applauded for its courage in raising the bar for quality science education.

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Intelligent Design network, inc. is a nonprofit national organization that seeks objectivity in origins science. Intelligent design is a scientific disagreement with claims that the apparent design of certain natural phenomena is an illusion that can be adequately explained by material causes. Objectivity is necessary because many institutions systematically suppress any objective consideration of that disagreement.