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Seeking Institutional Objectivity in Origins Science

PRESS RELEASE

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STATEWIDE SYMPOSIA TARGETS MISINFORMATION ABOUT NEW KANSAS SCIENCE STANDARDS

Experts who testified at science hearings will speak in five locations July 26-29:
Kansas City, Emporia, Hutchinson, Dodge City and Hays

Shawnee Mission, KS, July 12, 2006. Because of misinformation regarding changes to science standards about evolution and origins, IDnet has announced statewide symposia to set the record straight. The meetings will inform the public about what the Kansas State Board actually did and what really happened during the year-long process.

The three-hour symposium will be held in five locations around Kansas during July 26 to 29. Evening programs are scheduled in Kansas City (Wednesday July 26), Emporia (Thursday, July 26), Hutchinson (Friday, July 28), and Hays (Saturday, July 29). A Saturday morning program will be in Dodge City, July 29. For specific times, locations and other details Go to <http://www.KansasScience2005.com> or <http://www.TeachDarwinHonestly.com>.

"Practically everything opponents have said about these changes is either flat wrong or highly misleading," said John Calvert, a spokesman for the eight scientists and educators who proposed the changes. "Critics falsely claim that 'the changes remove evolution.' Wrong! They actually seek to increase the content so that students will be equipped to actually '*understand*' the theory."

"It has been said that 'The changes will embarrass all Kansans,' added Calvert. "But not a single change has been identified that fits the description. You often hear that 'The changes will drive business out of the state." However, the authors of that false idea explained in a journal for atheists and agnostics that it is nothing more than propaganda designed to woo uneducated voters..to '*throw out the bums*,'" said Calvert.

"The scientists and educators who crafted the changes were eight members of a State Board appointed Science Writing Committee, three of which hold doctoral degrees in the life sciences (biochemistry, entomology and medicine)," said William S. Harris, PhD, the biochemist who led the group. "Our work was extensively vetted by the public and scientists on both sides of the issue. The scientific and educational propriety of the changes became quite apparent during 3 days of testimony from 23 experts, 18 of which hold doctoral degrees," said Harris.

Harris, the featured symposia speaker, will explain how the changes were developed, proposed and then analyzed during a year-long process that involved the public and scientists and educators from all over the world.

"Dr. Harris, a research biochemist, is internationally known for his work on omega 3 fatty acids and their importance in reducing heart disease," said Calvert. "After listening to him you will be astonished to learn the difference between what actually happened and what you have been told by the opponents of objective origins science."

Because the science of origins unavoidably impacts all kinds of religion - both theistic and non-theistic, the program also features philosopher of science, Angus Menuge, PhD. to explain why the impact occurs. "Dr. Menuge, who testified at the science hearings last year, is an expert on scientific materialism. He will explain how that bias undermines scientific objectivity while subtly promoting certain kinds of religion over others," said Calvert.

"Origins science also impacts views about ethics, morality and government. My talk will deal briefly with published strategies used to defeat both objective origins science and religious neutrality in the science class room," said Calvert, a lawyer with a degree and experience in geology. "We have allowed lots of time for questions and answers from the public, so these conferences should provide an intellectually stimulating and interesting debate."

Intelligent Design network, inc. is a nonprofit national organization that seeks **INSTITUTIONAL** 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. For more information go to <http://www.intelligentdesignnetwork.org/>.