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Seeking Institutional Objectivity in Origins Science

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NEWS RELEASE:

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Kansas Board Establishes Materialism

Today the Kansas State Board of Education threw out a model for teaching origins science objectively. In the place of objective standards the Board inserted a new model which allows only material or natural causes to explain the origin of natural phenomena.

According to the new standards all of scientific knowledge can be reduced to the “physical” “ in terms of matter, energy and the forces.” Even human consciousness, which science studies, is reduced to the physical. Only one answer is allowed to the question: *Where do we come from?* The answer: material causes - the random interactions of matter, energy and the forces.

Along with this materialistic doctrine that allows no alternatives, the new standards sweep aside objective standards that would introduce students to legitimate scientific controversies regarding chemical evolution (origin of life) and macro-evolution (origins of new body plans and sophisticated bio-chemical systems). Given the doctrine that only material causes are allowed to explain where we come from, criticisms of evolutionary theory become irrelevant.

The placard on the wall of the Kansas State Board of Education proclaims:

“Our students come first in every Board decision.”

Today the State Board made a decision designed to withhold from students important relevant information about the most important question they may have to answer in their lives: *Where do we come from? What is the origin of life and its diversity.*” Today the State sent a message to its school districts to withhold information relevant to that question and to teach impressionable young children that life derives from only material causes. Many Kansans who signed over 3,000 petitions to the Board believe that decision does not put the student first. Instead it puts first those who seek only a material cause to explain life - Materialists.

“Materialism is a very controversial idea that lacks a sound evidentiary basis,” said Dr. William S. Harris, a biochemist. “It is the foundation for non-theistic religions and belief systems. State promotion of materialism effectively puts the state in the posture of discriminating between religions. Materialism favors the non-theist over the theist.”

“The public has not been properly educated on this issue,” said John Calvert, the managing director of IDnet. “Eventually the truth will emerge as the public becomes better educated. A new documentary that follows the testimony of the science hearings held two years ago does that.”

“The decision of the Board, not only disregards the needs of the students, it also undermines the home by discrediting parents who reject materialism and the ethics and morals it fosters,” said Greg Lassey, a former biology teacher and an author of the objective model that was removed from the standards.

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.