

The Future We Create: Science Education for a Scientifically Literate Future
Third Annual New England SENCER Symposium
January 8-9, 2008
Southern Connecticut State University, New Haven, CT

Sponsors: Center for Excellence in Mathematics and Science (SCSU), National Center for Science and Civic Engagement (NCSCE), Science Education for New Civic Engagements and Responsibilities (SENCER), and the New England SENCER Center for Innovation (SCI) at the University of Southern Maine*

At unprecedented levels, on both local and global scales, humanity is facing serious threats to its future. From global warming to global pandemics, from local natural disasters to local unsustainable planning efforts, our responses to these threats require an active and engaged citizenry capable of understanding and meaningfully addressing these crises. An enormous burden is being placed on our academic institutions—educators, administrators, and students—to create the leadership necessary to forge a path toward a sustainable future. These complex problems call for novel approaches to teaching and learning that are capable of addressing issues from multiple disciplines and educating students to become the next generation of scientifically literate decision-makers.

The theme for this symposium focuses on the role of science education in creating a sustainable future and seeks to address the following questions:

- Where lies the future of science and science education?
- How do we enhance scientific literacy in the decision-makers of tomorrow?
- How do we engage students in the big issues facing our communities?
- How can we sustain ourselves in our teaching, our research, and our institutions?

You are enthusiastically invited to participate in the Third Annual SENCER New England Regional Symposium to be held January 8-9, 2008 at Southern Connecticut State University, in New Haven. The event will begin at 12 noon and end at 12 noon the following day. Our goal is to provide a forum that engages all levels of academia—scientists, nonscientists, educators, administrators, students, and faculty developers—in planning a future course for science education. We hope this year's theme and corresponding questions will spark new ideas and inspire novel approaches to teaching and learning about scientific topics of broad societal importance.

We invite proposal submissions for:

- Formal papers (15-30 minutes)
- Panels and Workshops (75 minutes)
- Informal Roundtable Discussion Topics (75 minutes)
- Posters

Sessions are invited on a variety of topics including, but not limited to:

- Successful pedagogical and assessment strategies
- Energizing the role of science in general education

- Creating the next generation of science teachers (pre-service/in-service programs)
- Interdisciplinary approaches to science with the arts, humanities, and social sciences
- Using local issues or global topics in course development
- Engaging faculty and administrators in science education reform
- Attracting students to SENCER and science education
- An introduction to SENCER and the nuts and bolts of developing SENCER initiatives

The New England Symposium will offer opportunities for people new to SENCER to learn more about our approach and to meet SENCER alumni and staff. Information on upcoming staff development activities, as well as new and existing resources, will be presented. As is our tradition, the Symposium will also serve as a forum for alumni to share their work, re-connect with one another, meet new colleagues, and plan new ventures.

To submit a proposal or for more details about the symposium, please visit SENCER at: <http://www.sencer.net>. Click on the 2008 NE Regional Symposium link to download registration and proposal submission forms. Deadline for proposals is December 15th.

Financial support from the Center for Excellence in Mathematics and Science at Southern Connecticut State University and the National Center for Science and Civic Engagement has enabled us to offer this symposium at no registration cost to participants. However, all participants will be responsible for the cost of his or her own lodging. Anyone needing overnight accommodations should contact the Clarion Hotel, Hamden, CT, where a block of rooms has been reserved. The room rate is \$99 per night plus taxes, and it is located about 15 minutes from SCSU.

For more information, please contact the SENCER New England Steering Committee:

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