



PRESS RELEASE

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Smackover High School AP Scores Jump over 17% Percent, Opening Doors to College for More Students

National Math + Science AP Program drives student success, provides extra teacher training

Smackover, Arkansas – Smackover High School today announced significant Advanced Placement*(AP) gains, indicating a 17 percent increase in the qualifying scores achieved by students in AP math, science and English exams and a **141 percent increase** in the number of students undertaking the rigorous coursework. Driving these increases in student achievement is Arkansas Advanced Initiative for Math and Science (AAIMS) which Smackover High School began implementing during the 2010-2011 school year. The goal of the program is to boost student enrollment and achievement in rigorous AP courses, which significantly increase chances of success in college. This program is a part of the National Math and Science Initiative national program with 15 years of documented results in schools across the country. Smackover High School's AP scores have increased since the program was implemented.

The increased access to the college-level courses gives students the opportunity to earn college credit for advanced coursework and significantly increase their chances of succeeding in college. Students who pass an AP exam are three times more likely to complete their college education. Qualifying AP exam scores are almost universally accepted for course credit by the nation's colleges and universities, which see success in AP courses as reliable indicators of students' subject-area knowledge and capacity for college-level thinking.

National Math + Science first implemented the AP Program in 2008 in 67 schools across six states. This fall, the program will be implemented in a record 460 U.S. public schools in 14 states. As of September, the AAIMS program will have trained more than 900 teachers as part of the enhanced professional development.

Thirty –nine schools participated in the Arkansas Advanced Initiative for Math and Science in the 2011-12 school year. These 39 schools produced 3038 qualifying scores on the 2012 Advanced Placement math, Science, and English exams. These scores were 51% of the states AP science scores; 43% of the state's AP math scores, and 40% o the state's AP English sores. The 3038 scores of 3 or better amount to approximately \$1,959,510 of college credit.

The Walton Family Foundation and the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation are partners with AAIMS. The University of Arkansas at Little Rock is a supporting partner, and AAIMS is housed at UALR. National Math + Science has received major funding support for its ground-breaking national initiatives from **Exxon Mobil Corporation, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and the Michael and Susan Dell Foundation**, with additional support from the **Carnegie Corporation of New York** and **Lockheed Martin Corporation**.

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