

January 18, 2007

To: OPAS Initiative Workshop Participants
Pre-College Engineering and Applied Science Education Champions

From: Sean Gallagher & Dick Knight, OPAS “Prepare” Workgroup Co-Chairs

Subject: **Please Join the OPAS “Prepare” Workgroup**

The November 2006 OPAS Initiative Workshop provided an opportunity to set the focus for the coming year by reviewing priorities and allowing supporters to consider where they would like to invest their effort. The “Prepare” Workgroup was one of the three primary focus areas identified for future work. Its mission is to:

Increase the use of improved teaching methods: engineering problem solving, active learning, student inquiry, and creative teamwork.

Participants at the workshop felt that there was high leverage from focusing on exemplary classroom experiences and supporting the dissemination of outstanding curriculum and teaching practices. The expectation is that this focus will result in preparing more students for success in college and technical careers. The following link will take you to the full report from the Workshop and includes more discussion of participant recommendations for actions to be taken by the “Prepare” Workgroup:

http://opas.ous.edu//WorkshopFall2006/Workshop2006_ReportG.pdf

We would like to ask you to join this team. Our goal for this group is to make meaningful contributions by encouraging more schools to offer more exciting and effective classes in pre-engineering, applied science, science, math and technology by increasing the opportunities for teachers to access the development opportunities and resources they need to excel in teaching such classes and propagating quality pre-engineering programs.

If you are interested in being a member of the “Prepare” Workgroup, please volunteer by responding to Jo at the following e-mail address: Jo_Oshiro@ous.edu. Please also assist us in scheduling meetings by indicating your preferences for meeting times:

- Do you have a preference for the week of the month to meet?
- Is there a day of the week you prefer? A day you can't meet?
- Which of these times do you prefer: 9:00-10:30 a.m., 10:30-noon, or 3:30-5:00 pm?

This is a great opportunity to move the OPAS agenda forward. Please join us!

Best regards,

Sean Gallagher and Dick Knight

CC: Jo Oshiro, Bruce Schafer