

President William C. Friday
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3. To identify and attack significant problems in mathematics and science education. Some areas that may be the focus of attention are (a) analysis of the reasons for declining achievement, (b) continued professional development of teachers, (c) curriculum analysis, (d) concept development in mathematics and science, (e) uses of new technologies, including microcomputers.

4. To develop appropriate materials based on the results of research.

5. To attract a "critical mass" of graduate students of diverse backgrounds to receive training that will allow them to provide future leadership to the State and Nation.

ORGANIZATION:

The Center would be operated by the Department of Mathematics and Science Education. The administrative officer would be a director who would report to the head of the Department of Mathematics and Science Education who, in turn, reports to the Dean of the School of Education.

NEED FOR CENTER:

Widespread dissatisfaction with the quality of mathematics and science education currently offered in the public schools indicates the need for a thoughtful sustained approach to existing problems. Identification of the most pressing problems should be followed by research to seek solutions and development of new materials and policies to correct the problems. Such a systematic and sustained effort requires a stable structure that has continuity and direction. Individual faculty members can seldom marshal the resources necessary for this kind of effort, but the Center can provide a framework for faculty cooperation and joint initiatives in research, development, and teaching. Of particular importance is the opportunity that a collective effort provides to attract support from government and industry. Of equal importance is the opportunity to attract high quality graduate students, including mathematics and science teachers who can bring their classroom experience to bear on the study of problems.

SIMILAR UNITS ELSEWHERE IN THE UNIVERSITY:

The proposed Center will be unique in the University system. The University has recently established a Network of Mathematics and Science Education Centers whose effort will be focused primarily on teacher training. Within the Network, the only Center devoted to research and development Mathematics and Science Education will be established at North Carolina State University. The Center for Quality will be an umbrella that will include the Research and Development Center, but will go beyond it in scope and function since it will have a strong graduate education focus and will offer the opportunity for individual faculty members to initiate and conduct