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December 12, 1999

Frederick M. Stein
Director of Education and Outreach
American Physical Institute
One Physics Ellipse
College Park, MD 20740-3844

Dear Dr. Stein:

I am writing to support the efforts of the University of Arkansas Physics Department to be one of the sites for the APS/AIP/AAPT PhysTEC program.

The College of Education and Health Professions and the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, which houses the programs for teacher preparation, has a long history of collaboration with the departments in the Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences. The Fulbright College was a partner in the development of our Master of Arts in teaching (M.A.T.) program, which is a fifth year program ending in a master's degree and certification to teach. The science departments have been helpful in upgrading our teacher preparation programs to meet accreditation standards and have been instrumental in providing special programs for inservice teachers during summers and the academic year. Our college (Education) has established good relationships with the science departments through these activities. Additionally, the Department of Curriculum and Instruction has established Partner Schools which serve as sites for field-based experiences and for mentors for our M.A.T. interns.

I applaud the current efforts of the Physics department, especially Dr. Gay Stewart, to bring about reform in undergraduate education. Providing appropriate beginning level science courses for elementary teachers and collaboratively working with the science educators in the College of Education to provide innovative and effective methods courses, will help prepare preservice teachers to teach in ways that are recognized as best practice. I am eager to be a part of that effort and think the PhysTEC program a good model to bring about the needed changes. I heartily endorse and support this effort.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Wavering
Associate Professor of Science Education
Department of Curriculum and Instruction
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