

Mahoney, Hastings Announce Federal Grant for IRCC Math and Science Program

Program Helps High School Students Excel in Math and Science

(September 6, 2007)

(Washington, D.C.) - Tim Mahoney (FL-16) and Congressmen Alcee L. Hastings (FL-23) today announced that the U.S. Department of Education has awarded a \$250,000 federal grant to launch a new Indian River Community College Upward Bound program with special emphasis on math and science. The Upward Bound Math and Science (UBMS) program will prepare high school students for postsecondary education programs that lead to careers in math and science.

Expanding upon IRCC's 12-year record of success improving student achievement through Upward Bound, the new program will provide multi-faceted educational services and opportunities to inspire interest in math and science among first generation in college and low income students in St. Lucie County. Fifty participants will be selected from Central and Westwood High Schools.

Beginning in January, the students will engage in exciting projects linking math and science to real-world experiences. Working in teams, they will replicate the conditions for a "hurricane" through laboratory experiments, monitoring and predicting its path and evaluating the extent of damage that would be caused at different levels of strength.

Gaining exposure to scientific research, the students will work with mathematicians and scientists at IRCC and scientific organizations such as Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution, USDA Labs, and Smithsonian Institution. Classroom reinforcement will focus on academic achievement, and the students will be paired with IRCC science majors who will serve as peer tutors.

"America's strength rests on its ability to compete on a global scale, and this program is an essential tool for our nation's high school students to advance academically and professionally in the all important fields of math and science. IRCC's Upward Bound Math and Science Program will help to train our region's future research scientists who will find cures for diseases and ailments, engineers and architects that will improve our environment and overall way of life, and teachers that will make our country stronger in the areas of math and science," said Congressman Alcee L. Hastings.

"America needs a scientific and technologically-capable workforce in order to compete in the global economy. IRCC's Upward Bound Math and Science Program will help students develop critical math and science skills through intensive training and mentoring. This is especially important in light of recent reports that American math and science students are lagging behind many of their international counterparts. Upward Bound creates the opportunity for more students to succeed in these subjects. By building a bridge between the classroom and the workplace, this program will help peak student interest in math and science and guide more young people toward these fields," said Congressman Tim Mahoney.

"As we develop our region into a hub for science, math and technology, it becomes increasingly important that we inspire interest and achievement in math and science at the high school and college level. By motivating students and generating enthusiasm for the fascinating uses of math and science, the Upward Bound Math and Science program will help students succeed in the classroom, eager to develop the high-tech skills needed for our workforce," said Dr. Edwin R. Massey, IRCC President.

A six-week summer session will include rigorous academic studies in math and science, as well as cultural activities. During the academic year, UBMS participants will meet each week to participate in instruction and enrichment activities in math and science. These activities will reinforce the summer session and ensure that participants remain focused on courses that will lead to careers in math and science.

The Upward Bound Math and Science program is a federally funded TRIO program, fostering academic achievement and preparation for post-secondary education among student participants who are low-income and/or first generation

college students.

IRCC has participated in TRIO programs since 1995-1996, serving 837 9th through 12th graders through the Upward Bound program in St. Lucie County and the KAPS/Upward Bound program in Indian River County. Other TRIO programs at IRCC include Educational Talent Search, serving over 900 6th through 12th graders since 2003 and Student Support Services serving over 700 college students since 1997.

For more information, contact Adriene Jefferson, IRCC Associate Dean of Minority Affairs at 772-462-7606.

-###-