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The Association of Science Materials Centers (ASMC) and the HandsOn Science Partnership (HOSP) begin new strategic partnership

The Association of Science Materials Centers (ASMC) and the HandsOn Science Partnership (HOSP) have joined together in a strategic partnership to better serve science materials centers, science educators, and school district leaders across the U.S.

At HOSP's July Board of Directors meeting, ASMC Board President, Trisha Herminghaus and Tom Peters, Director of ASMC's Office of Membership Services, engaged in collaborative dialogue to solidify new programmatic, legal and operational structures for ASMC with financial and resource support from HOSP. "This partnership provides ASMC the foundation to support teachers, districts, regions and states pursuing science education reform using an inquiry-based and hands-on approach. Many districts are moving in this direction and we have the expertise to support their efforts. The timing for this partnership could not be better!" Herminghaus commented.

Tom Guetling, current HOSP Board Chairman and President stated, "This new partnership provides the ideal mechanism for our member companies to closely collaborate with, serve, and learn from our key customers, advocates and supporters. HOSP will support ASMC's programmatic agenda and work to increase awareness about hands-on programs. ASMC will help our members better integrate our exemplary materials, tools, technology and kits into learning platforms across the U. S."

"It's time to take ASMC to the next level," commented Director of Membership Services, Tom Peters. "I believe this partnership comes at the right time in our organization's development. For the past 10 years, leaders in our field have set the standard for materials centers, shared expertise and contributed to the field of practice. In the next 10 years, ASMC and HOSP will honor the legacy of our leaders by sharing our best practices with a broader and more diverse audience. We will offer unique services that reflect the our core pathways used in our premiere event – the Next Steps Institute while creating more resources and support for new educators who are just beginning their own experience with research and inquiry-based programs." Peters concluded.

In the upcoming months, ASMC, with assistance from a management team provided by Alchemy: The Art of Transforming Business (www.link2alchemy.com), and a new Board of Directors, will create the blueprint for the organization for the next 3-5 years. This will include refining the vision and mission of the organization, expanding levels of membership and designing new types of support and services for members.

ASMC leadership will also establish short, medium and long-term priorities, develop a funding plan and oversee the planning for the Next Steps Institute slated for October 21-24, 2009 in Huntsville, Alabama.

ASMC and HOSP will provide regular updates about this work through our websites (www.kitsupport.org and www.handsonsciencepartnership.com).

We welcome your comments, questions and insights. Send immediate reactions or questions to: emily@link2alchemy.com or at

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Business and partnering inquiries are also welcome.