Dear colleague:

Are you looking for a way to inform parents about your state's math and science standards, and to enlist their support for the standards? Bring The FANS Project to your region!

You are invited to attend the 2nd National FANS Conference, which will take place on November 9 - 10, 2000 on the Busch Campus of Rutgers University in New Brunswick. At the conference, you will learn about New Jersey's successful outreach project to parents, and about how you can replicate it in your region. The FANS Project (Families Achieving the New Standards in Mathematics, Science, and Technology Education) is funded by the National Science Foundation, with additional major funding by the AT&T Foundation.

The conference will showcase the key component of the project, *The FANS Workshop*, which has been presented to parents throughout the state over 1,200 times in the past three years. Parents who attend *The FANS Workshop* take part in hands-on standards-based activities in addition to watching a videotape (English or Spanish) specifically produced for the workshop. *The FANS Workshop* is described in more detail in the enclosed brochure; a three-minute promotional videotape that includes highlights of *The FANS Workshop* are enclosed. Further information about the FANS Project can be found at http://dimacs.rutgers.edu/fans.

Those attending the conference will experience and participate in *The FANS Workshop* and a training session for workshop presenters, and will learn how they can initiate similar projects in their own regions. There will be discussion of the nuts and bolts of the project, including issues like budgets and funding, databases, materials distribution, and recruitment and training of workshop leaders.

The conference is designed for those who are interested in and are able to initiate the following "basic implementation model" (perhaps scaling up subsequently):

- offering between 30 and 100 workshops for parents in the upcoming year (reaching 500 - 2500 parents);
- drawing on a pool of 10 to 25 known volunteers to lead these workshops (each conducting about 3 or 4 workshops); and
- using in your workshops the FANS materials.

August 28, 2000

New Jersey Mathematics Coalition
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Email: lomench@dimacs.rutgers.edu
Rutgers University Center for Mathematics, Science, and Computer Education

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To facilitate the replication of the FANS Project in other regions, we have prepared a
generic version of the videotape, which can be used as is, or into which state-specific information
can be incorporated. A Spanish version of the videotape is also available.

The Conference will begin at 1 pm on Thursday November 9, 2000 and will continue
until 4:30 pm on Friday November 10, 2000. Thursday's sessions will continue until 9:30 pm
(including dinner), and will focus on The FANS Workshop and the FANS Workshop Training
Session for workshop presenters. The focus of Friday's sessions (8:00 am to 4:30 pm including
breakfast and lunch) will be on how participants can initiate similar projects in their regions.

The following local expenses will be covered by our National Science Foundation grant
for a limited number of participants: registration, all materials, meals (dinner, breakfast, and
lunch), and lodging for one night at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel in Piscataway, New Jersey.

If you intend to launch a one-person effort, please be advised that the "basic
implementation model" is more than one person can handle. It requires an organizational
structure (involving a person who is generally available during the day to recruit workshop sites
and arrange logistics on the phone) and a number of different workshop leaders.

We encourage and welcome teams, but funding is available for a limited number of
participants. For now we will limit registration to teams of two or three people; additional
people can be placed on a waiting list and may be accepted if space is available.

Because FANS is standards-based and standards are generally statewide, it might be a
good idea to contact others in your state before the Conference to exchange thoughts about
FANS, so that your efforts can be collaborative from the outset. There will be opportunities at
the Conference for participants to meet on a regional basis. You can determine whether others
from your state attended the 1999 National FANS Conference by checking
http://dimacs.rutgers.edu/fans/confpic.html

Please return the enclosed Registration Form by September 29; late registrants will
be accepted only if space is available. If you have any questions, please call Kerstin
Schnatter at 732/445-2894.

Please inform your colleagues, both those from your state and from other states,
who may be interested in FANS. This invitation letter and registration form are available
at http://dimacs.rutgers.edu/fans/conf.html

We look forward to seeing you at the Conference.

Sincerely,

Joseph G. Rosenstein                      Warren Crown
Project Co-Director                      Project Co-Director