

PROGRAMS THAT WORK

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Each year the Virginia Mathematics and Science Coalition recognizes programs that have been particularly effective in enabling more people to be successful in mathematics and science. The Coalition is particularly interested in recognizing programs that are effective working with individuals from groups that have not traditionally been fully represented in these areas, including minorities, women, and individuals from rural and inner city areas. In the year 2000, eleven programs were recognized and reports of their work were included in a special issue of this journal, Volume 3 No 2.

In 2001 the following programs were recognized:

- Project MATRIX: *Mathematics and Talent Recognition: Instructing for Excellence*; Charlottesville City Public Schools,
M. K. Murray, Project Director
- *Saturday Morning PACE* (Parent and Child Education) of Richmond City Public Schools and the Mathematics & Science Center,
D. J. Bagby and *P. A. Priestas*, Project Directors
- *Bridges to the Baccalaureate* Program at J. Sargent Reynolds Community College and Virginia Commonwealth University,
D. Neely-Fisher, Project Director
- CHROME: *A Pre-College Program in Science, Mathematics, Engineering and Technology*,
E. G. Wilson, Director
- *Math Made Easy* mathematics program at Tidewater Park Elementary School of Norfolk,
M. Artis, Mathematics Specialist

- Project STEP: *Student and Teacher Excellence Program* of Newport News Public Schools,
W. D. Lett, Superintendent, and T. Woods, Director

Articles reporting on the first three of these programs appeared in Volume 4 No 2. This issue a new regular “Programs That Work” section is initiated, and a report on CHROME appears here. The remainder of the 2001 programs and the programs recognized in 2002 will be reported on in this section in future issues.

CHROME: A PRE-COLLEGE PROGRAM FOR SCIENCE, MATHEMATICS, ENGINEERING, AND TECHNOLOGY

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Program Description

The Cooperating Hampton Roads Organizations for Minorities in Engineering (CHROME) is a pre-college outreach program for science, mathematics, engineering, and technology that serves Hampton Roads, Virginia. With the goal of promoting minorities' preparation for careers in engineering and other high-technology fields, representatives from business, industry, government, institutions of secondary and higher education, and other community organizations created CHROME. Today, our eighteen-year effort represents a highly effective partnership of over seventy organizations.

Concerns regarding the trend of students' declining interest and preparedness in science-related careers and, in particular, the lack of participation in these fields on the part of minorities and females dating to the early 1980s, have been validated by the present shortage of a technical work force in America. While the rapidly expanding job market demands many more workers with these skills, the number of undergraduates earning computer science, engineering, and other technical degrees has diminished despite a national concern for our future work force. Moreover, demographic trends indicate that women and minorities will continue to comprise an increasing proportion of new workers. Increased participation in the fields of science, engineering, and