

NEWS

From the office of
THE GOVERNOR



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SPRINGFIELD, Ill., October 16--Governor James R. Thompson appointed eight persons Wednesday to the Board of Trustees of the newly created Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy.

"Illinois is a State blessed with creative and gifted students whose talents are the bright hope of our future. But if these students are to grow to their full potential, their talents must be nurtured and refined, their minds must be challenged to reach out and examine the unknown. This is the object and goal of the Illinois Math and Science Academy. The Academy was a promise made in this Administration's Better Schools Program--a promise which must be fulfilled for the best and brightest of our youth," the Governor said.

"If we are to compete in a technological society with other nations that already have intensive math and science training, then we must start now to concentrate our efforts on preparing our students through this Academy."

Under Senate Bill 730, which created the Math and Science Academy, eight of the 17 Board of Trustee members are appointed by the Governor, with a Chairman to be chosen by Board members. Included in Thompson's appointments are:

*Barbara Schmulbach, Carbondale, Mathematics Teacher, Carbondale Community High School, Carbondale.

*John McEachern, Jr., Oswego, President and part owner, Wayne Circuits Incorporated, Yorkville.

*James Pearson, Aurora, President and Chief Executive Officer, Aurora Industries, Montgomery.

*Sheila Griffin, St. Charles, Marketing Executive, Motorola Incorporated, Schaumburg.

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*Dr. Anthony Sadowski, Naperville, Vice President of Research, Nalco Chemical Company, Naperville.

*Dr. Walter Massey, Chicago, Vice President for Research, Argonne National Laboratory, University of Chicago, Chicago.

*Dr. Leon Lederman, Batavia, Director, Fermilab, Batavia.

*John Marion, Aurora, Journeyman Electrician, Financial Secretary, Business Manager and Apprentice Training Director, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), Local 461, Aurora.

Three representatives of secondary education were appointed to the Board by the State Superintendent of Education. Included were: Dr. Stephanie Marshall, Superintendent of Schools, Batavia; Jesus Sosa, Principal, Clemente High School, Chicago; and Elsie Scott, Chemistry Teacher, Mattoon High School.

Two members were appointed by the Executive Director of the Illinois Board of Higher Education. They are: Dr. Martin G. Abegg, President, Bradley University, Peoria and Dr. Dennis Gooler, Dean, College of Education, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb.

In addition, Ted Sanders, State Superintendent of Education; David Pierce, Executive Director of the Illinois Community College Board; Richard Wagner, Executive Director of the State Board of Higher Education; and Gary Jewel, Superintendent of Schools in Aurora, where the Academy is to be located, will serve on the Board as ex officio, non-voting members.

At the Board's first meeting, members will draw lots to determine who will serve initial appointments of two, four and six years. With the exception of these initial appointments, members will serve on the Board for six years.

The appointments, effective immediately, require Senate confirmation. Trustees will receive expenses only.

The Academy will be located at the West Aurora High School North Campus at 1500 West Sullivan Road in Aurora. The school was built in 1977 through the Capital Development Board and closed in 1981 due to declining enrollments.

Aurora is in the heart of the Fox River Valley, where the high tech corridor will present a wealth of opportunity for Academy students. Laboratories such as Amoco Research, Nalco Chemical, Fermilab, Bell Telephone and Northern Illinois Gas are all in close proximity to the Academy's location.

The Academy will be a three-year residential public school, where students will work at an accelerated pace from the tenth through twelfth grades. In addition to a uniquely challenging education in mathematics and science, the school will offer a superior program in English, foreign languages, social studies and the humanities. Upon completing the program, students will qualify for entrance into college at the sophomore level.

The Academy will accommodate approximately 800 students in three classes when fully implemented. The first class is expected to enter the Academy in the fall of 1987, with one additional class to start in each of the following two years. Admission will be determined by competitive examination.

The FY 86 State Board of Education included an appropriation of \$500,000 for the planning of the Academy.

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