Illinois Math and Science Academy

DigitalCommons@IMSA

Speeches   Dr. Stephanie Pace Marshall

9-22-1987

Apple Donation

Stephanie Pace Marshall

Good morning. I am Stephanie
Marshall, Director of the Illinois
Mathematics and Science Academy and
it is indeed a pleasure for me to
welcome you to the Academy and to
the beginning of another important
venture in our institution's brief
history. We are here this morning
not only to announce a significant
donation of computers by Apple
Corporation to the Academy, but also
to recognize that this donation is
evidence of their commitment to the
Academy and its mission; it is also
a signal to other corporations and
our legislators of the confidence
that Apple Corporation has in the
Academy and the positive impact we
will have in improving math and
science education in Illinois.

The Academy's original request for
equipment from Apple was made in the
context of a proposal with the
University of Illinois for the

National Science Foundation,
entitled "Reconfiguring Education
for the 21st Century. The proposal
calls for the development of a
totally interactive and
interdisciplinary computer-based
environment on the IMSA campus.
Within this enviroment, students
will be exposed to multiple data
sources and will use an
interdisciplinary research model to
solve problems.

The Academy asked Apple to
participate in the development of
this innovative educational
environment by donating "equipment
and expertise." Our program design
is at the cutting edge of
technology. We believe the
participation of Apple is critical
to promote the facilitation of
teaching and learning through the
use of an information-rich and
technologically-intensive
environment.

Our goals are threefold:

1. To develop the technical expertise of students and faculty in the use of word processing, spreadsheet, and database software so that each user can apply the programs effectively in problem solving situations; to develop software applications labs as centers for seminars and development of exportable demonstration and instruction packages.

2. Develop network applications appropriate to high school and college preparatory settings and share these with other schools designing network applications for their environment.

3. Begin the initial implementation of an artificial intelligence curriculum which focuses on applications in science, mathematics, and the social sciences; develop and test curriculum materials for statewide dissemination.

The equipment and support Apple is offering IMSA will transform our classrooms into laboratories where our students can truly become "apprentice investigators" with the tools required to learn in innovative ways.

Equally as important, this partnership will facilitate our outreach efforts as the Academy increases in its ability to become a laboratory and a center for curriculum development in math, sicence and technology for statewide dissemination.

In a recent speech to the Seventh World Conference on Gifted and Talented Youth, Dr. Terrance Bell, former Secretary of Education said that "probably the most neglected group today are the gifted and talented young people.... assistance for the gifted may be the most urgent unfinished business in education today.

Last year, Apple Corporation donated over $60,000. In equipment, today's donation brings this contribution to over $160,000.

This partnership, that the Academy has formed with Apple, will not only enable us to provide for our gifted students but will also provide the equipment necessary for us to serve as a laboratory to design new applications of this technology and distribute them statewide.

As you are all aware, the Academy has not received sufficient funding for us to continue beyond January 31st, without an additional appropriation. We are seeking that supplemental appropriation during this session.

We remain optimistic that the legislature will approve the funds that we require.

It is our hope that this demonstration of commitment from Apple Corporation will reinforce to