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AN ACADEMY UPDATE

A Report on Recent Accomplishments and Initiatives by the Academy

THEODORE E. MOLITOR and MARK A. DAVIS*

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The Minnesota Academy of Science was formed in 1932 as a nonprofit affiliate of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The Academy's goal now, as then, is to advance pure and applied science in Minnesota through its support of research and education efforts. One unique contribution the Academy makes is to serve as a bridge between groups and individuals that traditionally seldom communicate with one another. The Academy serves as an umbrella organization for all scientists, from the budding high school enthusiast to the college professor to the agency planner to the industrial scientist.

The academy supports science research and education through its many programs. For example, the Biotechnology Conference held last April and co-sponsored with the Science Museum of Minnesota and Molecular Genetics was well attended and widely regarded as a definite success. The program was excellent and the proceedings were published in the fall issue of the *Journal*. The 1987 spring meeting of the Academy included a new program of recognition for undergraduate and graduate students called the Newton W. Winchell Awards. Under this program, monetary awards were presented to three undergraduate and three graduate students in recognition of their outstanding presentations at the annual meeting. We look forward to increased participation by undergraduate and graduate students at the 1988 spring meeting to be held at Macalester College. Other Academy-sponsored programs this past year include the annual fall meeting at Deep Portage, which was well attended and the Junior Science, Engineering, and Humanities Symposium held in Rochester which included 180 presentors. As always, regional, state, and international science fairs continued to be important events for the Junior Academy participants.

Beginning in 1989, the Academy's *Journal* is planning to devote its January issue to a review of the state of the state of Minnesota. Titled *The State of the State of Minnesota 1989* (1990, 1991, etc., in subsequent years), this issue will inform Minnesota citizens on important statewide issues and

developments in the fields of education, health, transportation, business, the environment, regional development, technology, and agriculture. Each annual issue will contain invited articles on topics selected by the *Journal's* editorial staff. The staff will make its decisions regarding both topics and authors based on information and suggestions it receives from leaders in the respective fields. No forum or publication currently exists to provide the kind of information and ideas we envision to be contained in our State of the State issue. Needless to say, we are very excited about this annual issue and believe Minnesota's citizens will welcome its publication.

Efforts and initiatives like those just described do not happen by themselves. An ambitious and enthusiastic Board of Directors along with several very active committees have been responsible for the many recent successes. The Legislative Committee convinced the State of Minnesota to increase its appropriation to the Academy to \$54,000 for the biennium. The Finance Committee, through visitations with current, former, and new supporting contributors, has substantially increased the Academy's financial support. Efforts by the Membership Committee have produced an increase in Academy membership. The Successor Management Committee has completed its review and recommendations regarding the Executive Director's role as well as other staff roles. The Program Committee is currently reviewing all Academy programs and the Publicity Committee is working on the development of a brochure for the general public, which will highlight the Academy's mission and activities. Upon recommendation of the Personnel Committee, the Board has appointed Judy Harrigan to be the Academy's interim Executive Director, with Buzz Harrigan remaining as our Resource Consultant.

As evidenced by the many persons who have contributed to the past year's accomplishments, active and committed members are the secret to a strong and effective Academy. If this past year is a harbinger of things to come, the Academy can expect to play an increasingly active role in Minnesota science in the future.