

June 19, 2007

Dear Physics Educator,

I am currently developing two chapters for a “next generation” high school teacher preparation and professional development textbook for physics. The chapters are *Teaching the Nature of Science* and *Understandings about Scientific Inquiry*. I am seeking reviewers to take part in an online technique to reasonably ensure that these chapters are accurate, compliant with science teacher preparation and teaching standards, and include the best in science education research.

As you may know, there is a strong, persistent, and growing need for a “21st century” science teacher preparation textbook that addresses the points that some popular science teacher preparation textbooks have seemingly failed to adequately address or omit altogether. My goal is to create a new textbook that is, in the judgment of panels of experts such as yourself, free from such deficiencies.

I seek to develop two expert panels consisting of 10 individuals broadly representative of the science education community, competent to make informed judgments, and committed to seeing an evaluation process through to completion. Communications of the panels will be conducted primarily through e-mail and the Web-based surveys. The work will consist of reading one of the draft chapters, evaluating it in relation to stated standards, and making recommendations for improvement.

A variant of the Delphi Method will be used to elicit information and develop a consensus judgment among the panelists in an effort to determine the extent to which the chapters meet indicated requirements. The technique uses a structured communication process that allows a widely distributed group of individuals to deal anonymously with a complex problem without bringing them together for face-to-face communication (*The Delphi Method: Techniques and Applications*. Linstone & Turoff, 1975).

The approach will consist of gathering individualized judgments and recommendations using a Web-based survey instrument. This approach will allow opportunities for experts to contribute their comments anonymously, and then revise those comments in light of comments from other reviewers; identifying codes will be used so not even the researcher will know who is making which comments. Because of this, the foreseeable risks and discomfort to the participants should be minimal.

The expected duration of this work commitment is 10 hours or less; review work is expected to begin around July 1 and conclude by August 15, 2007. Panelist contributions are entirely voluntary and without remuneration. Contributing panelists may discontinue participation at any time without penalty or loss of benefits. The panelists’ contributions as reviewers will be acknowledged with textbook publication. Panelists will benefit from knowing that they have helped to develop a standards-compliant publication.

If you are interested in serving as an expert panelist, please go to <http://phy.ilstu.edu/~wenning/application.doc> to download an interactive application form. Please complete and save the form, and then return it electronically as a .doc attachment to CWenning@IllinoisState.edu no later than June 30th. Invitations for qualified applicants to participate on one of the two panels will be sent out shortly thereafter.

Thanks very much for your consideration. Please don’t hesitate to contact me through my e-mail address if you have any questions.

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