

## 2001 CESE ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

The Fifth Annual Meeting of the Coalition for Excellence in Science and Math Education (CEE) was held on June 16th, 2001 at the First Unitarian Church in Albuquerque, New Mexico. CESE founder and first president, Dr. Marshall Berman made the introductory remarks. Berman discussed the history of CESE, its expanding goals, and its increasing influence. He said one reason we are here working together is to leave a legacy for the future.

Attendees briefly introduced themselves. Over fifty members and guests attended. Secretary Dave Thomas performed a couple of magic tricks, one with invisible cards, and another involving sticking a needle through a balloon without popping it.

Outgoing president Steve Brügge thanked the attendees for choosing science and math education as one of their causes. With so much to do in our busy lives, Steve commented, we must choose our causes carefully. Steve presented wall plaques with expressions of CESE's appreciation to our two CESE webmasters, David Beck (past) and Dave Johnson (present).

Past president Kim Johnson introduced the keynote speaker, State Representative Rick Miera, who spoke on "Education Reform, the Demise/Recapture of the Student." Miera was at the UNM psychology department for 20 years, but had to retire when he became a legislator. Besides his legislative work, which includes chairing the House Education committee, as well as co-chairing the Legislative Education Study Committee, Miera works with the Bernalillo County Juvenile Detention Center.

Miera talked about the national education reform now before Congress, and discussed the importance of accountability methods. How can we measure performance? What do we test? What methods are successful? Does putting schools on probation help? How can we stay competitive on a global scale? He also spoke about the education reform package that was passed in the legislature last spring, but which was vetoed by Governor Johnson. Miera mentioned the many players in the reform debate (including the Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce, Think New Mexico, and others), who each wanted package that finally emerged had a little bit for everyone, including higher teacher salaries, extended school year (more time for professional development), voluntary teacher incentive ("merit") pay, a Performance and Assessment Standards Council (for accountability), more math, three years of high school science, regional service centers to supplant the State Dept. of Education, and many other provisions, such as having local school boards implement policies, but leaving hiring and firing to administrators. In the end, the Governor vetoed the bill because he wanted a tax cut, and because the reform did not include vouchers. Responding to a question from the audience regarding whether it would have been a good compromise to accept a "small" voucher proposal in the bill to appease Gov. Johnson, Miera said this would have been a bad precedent because it would require vouchers by a statute. Rep. Miera concluded his remarks by pointing out how he thinks retaining an elected state board of education is very important.

The business meeting followed. Treasurer Nancy Shelton reported CESE had \$1417.00. The slate of officers was presented and voted in.

### Board of Directors

- Dr. Timothy Moy - President
- Bill MacPherson - Vice-President
- Marilyn Savitt-Kring - Secretary
- Nancy B. Shelton - Treasurer/Editor
- Steven P. Brügge - Past President

### Members at Large

- Dr. Marshall Berman
- M. Kim Johnson
- Jerry Shelton
- David E. Thomas
- Dr. Jonathan Weiss

Outgoing President Brügge then passed the gavel to incoming president Dr. Timothy Moy.

Moy said he was honored to join the company of past presidents Berman, Getty, Johnson, and Brügge. Dr. Moy said that CESE has survived one of the most critical tests an organization can face—success. Moy thought the organization might fade away. But, he said, it has remained a vibrant and effective group; he commented on the impact the CESE White Paper on Educational Reform made this spring at the legislature. Dr. Moy also talked about his background, and why he became a science historian. He said that science and the humanities are often in harmony, but there are those occasions where “thinking” and “knowing” counter each other. Moy talked about the need for informed skepticism—not the over-skepticism of those who say we can’t know anything, but certainly more than blank acceptance of all ideas. He said it’s important to know science, but also to know “about” science, not just the dry facts, but the methods and background of how science really works. The meeting was adjourned and all met for refreshments in the Social Hall.

Respectfully submitted,  
David E. Thomas  
Secretary