



January 11, 2016

TO: Legislative Members of the Joint Education Committee

FROM: Dr. Kenneth James, President, Arkansas AIMS

RE: AAIMS BACKGROUND AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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We appreciate the opportunity to present this Executive Summary and PowerPoint presentation, which highlights the success of the program since inception, as well as the Spring 2015 results.

- AAIMS was initially funded with a \$13.2 million private grant from the National Math and Science Initiative, with major support from Exxon Mobil.
- AAIMS was created to carry out specific recommendations from the National Academy of Sciences on improving science and mathematics education in secondary schools in the 2007 report *Rising Above the Gathering Storm*.
- AAIMS is based on a model with a track record of success and replicates a proven model that has demonstrated tremendous success on urban, suburban and rural high schools across Arkansas.
- AAIMS' supporting partners are the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, and the Arkansas Department of Education.
- The goals are: to increase participation in AP math, science, and English; to improve the success rates on AP exams; to increase the number of students attending and graduating from college; and to strengthen the skills of AP and Pre-AP teachers.
- AAIMS will work with 55 schools in 2015-2016. Five new schools joined Cohort 7 this fall: Hope, Lonoke, Magnet Cove, Siloam Springs, and White Hall. We are already in the process of recruiting our Cohort 8 schools and we expect to add 6-8 new schools in the fall of 2016.
- AAIMS sets numerical goals for qualifying AP exam scores for each AP teacher.

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- AAIMS has increased enrollment in AP Math, science and English in all schools.
- AAIMS has increased the enrollment of minority students in AP math, science and English across all of our schools.
- AAIMS has increased the number of African-American and Hispanic students enrolled in AP math and science in all of our schools.
- In the spring of 2015, we implemented online prep study sessions, and served over 34,000 students.
- AAIMS is working to produce students who are successful in college and who major in math and science.
- AAIMS offered our inaugural Summer Boot Camp at UALR this past summer. The week-long boot camp was open to Pulaski County Students and we served 67 students. The boot camp was a huge success and we will offer our 2nd boot camp at UALR this summer. Funding for the Summer Boot Camp came from the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation.
- Due to the success of our Boot Camp at UALR, we will offer our inaugural Summer Boot Camp in NW Arkansas this summer. The camp will be conducted on the University of Arkansas campus at Fayetteville. I will meet with the NW Arkansas Superintendents on February 4th.