



New Jersey Center for
Teaching and Learning
www.njctl.org

For Immediate Release
February 1, 2011

Contact: Peggy Stewart
[pstewart73@gmail](mailto:pstewart73@gmail.com)
201.317.0018

New Jersey Center for Teaching and Learning Identified as a High Quality Professional Development Organization in a Comprehensive, Nation-wide Study

According to a comprehensive, nation-wide study published by Learning Forward and the Stanford Center for Opportunity Policy in Education (SCOPE), the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) is an innovative professional development organization supporting teacher development in the areas of science and math education in New Jersey.

The report, "Teacher Professional Learning in the U. S.: Case Studies of State Policies and Strategies," generously supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, is the third phase of an ongoing study on professional development in the United States (see learningforward.org for the full report).

CTL Director Dr. Robert Goodman said, "Improving student achievement in science is a national priority. To that end, increasing the number of skilled science teachers is also a national priority. The Progressive Science Initiative (PSI) was designed to achieve both of these goals."

The PSI initiative supports high levels of student achievement in physics, chemistry and biology and provides an opportunity for current teachers to earn science teacher certification (see www.njctl.org). In less than two years, CTL has trained more than 100 teachers who are currently teaching physics and/or chemistry to more than 6,000 ninth and tenth grade students in New Jersey.

Dr. Goodman noted, "Our students need access to advanced science courses, particularly physics, and we need more highly effective physics teachers." The 2009 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) results indicate that only 21% of the 12th graders tested performed at or above the proficiency level in science. According to Dr. Goodman, NAEP results also indicate that students who took physics, along with biology and chemistry, performed higher on average than those who took biology and chemistry only. CTL is taking positive steps to strengthen science education in the U.S.

CTL is an independent 501(c)3 organization whose mission is to empower teachers to lead school reform. For more on CTL, check out www.njctl.org

###