

College to participate in partnership program

By Susan Maguire
The Battalion

Texas A&M's College of Education will help restructure teacher education as part of a national program working with public schools.

The College of Education will work with seven other colleges to improve public education through a partnership program, said Dr. Jane Stallings, dean of the A&M's College of Education.

The program includes working closely with student teachers and the public school's administration. This format offers the most promise for developing the type of educators and school organization needed to serve the nation's children, she said.

A&M's education program was one of 275 schools that applied to participate in the program. Other universities chosen include California Polytechnic State University, the University of Wyoming, Wheelock College in Massachusetts, Miami University in Ohio, Montclair State College, University of Washington and a South Carolina consortium of some of the state's small colleges.

Dr. John Goodlad, director of the University of Washington's Center for Educational Renewal, is the program's coordinator.

"I think we were chosen because we already have a relationship with two schools in Houston who are our partners for development of faculty and students," she said. "We are committed as a college of education to changing how we develop teachers, administration and school counselors."

"Also, I think it helped that

our president and provost are very supportive of the college," she said.

During a weekend retreat for faculty leaders in all departments of the college, a member of Goodlad's staff spoke about restructuring. This was followed by a separate retreat for each department to discuss renewal efforts.

"Given our tight budget, the funds for the retreats came from the Goodlad grant," she said.

The college has looked into forming partnerships with several other schools, Stallings said.

"We have met with several schools and are forming partnerships with a school in Bryan ISD, Conroe and Houston," she said. "We expect to develop a relationship with a school in College Station."

Stallings said because several faculty members have traveled to Seattle to talk with John Goodlad and his staff, the college is ready to do a self-examination of where it stands on each of the 19 recommendations defined by Goodlad and his renewal program.

The four main themes of the recommendations are award systems, diversity among faculty, curriculum renewal and school/university partnerships.

"Based on the examination, we will set goals and begin development," she said.

The Center for Education Renewal was one of four educational restructuring initiatives mentioned in President Bush's "American 2000: An Education Strategy," an education proposal released in April by the George Bush and Lamar Alexander, U.S. Secretary of Education.



HUY NGUYEN/The Battalion

Monumental

Mary Leigh Wolf (left), an assistant professor in agricultural engineering, and Debbie Cook, an industrial engineering research scientist, spends their lunch

break in the shade of the System Administration Building in front of the A&M campus Monday afternoon.

Houston man gets artificial heart pump

HOUSTON (AP) — A Houston-area man on Monday was recovering from a failing heart with the help of a portable, battery-powered heart pump implanted at the Texas Heart Institute.

Michael Templeton of Humble is the second recipient of the electrically powered device produced by Thermo CardioSystems Inc., a subsidiary of Thermedics Inc. of Woburn, Mass.

The first recipient, Larry Heinsohn, 52, of Shreveport, La., died two weeks after the device was implanted on May 9 at the institute. Physicians said at the time that Heinsohn's death was unrelated to the device.

Templeton, an electronics worker, had the experimental device implanted in his abdomen Sept. 3 at the Texas Heart Institute.

Environmental activists demand stricter rules for disposal permits

AUSTIN (AP) — Protesters at a "tent city" outside the Texas Water Commission called on officials Monday to vote against new hazardous waste disposal permits until stronger state rules can be developed.

But Water Commission spokesman Bill Colbert said state law does not allow for such action by the agency, which he said has held up 16 to 18 permit applications during a temporary moratorium approved by lawmakers.

Protesters at commission headquarters have set up several tents, hung a "Toxic City, Texas" banner and constructed a mock graveyard with tombstones displaying such epitaphs as "Earl E. Graves" and "I.M. Polluted."

"It's a mock graveyard here, but there are real graveyards in our communities," said Rick Abraham, executive director of Texans United. "Toxic waste in Texas is a serious problem ... Pollution in Texas has killed people, has destroyed families and communities."

Lawmakers earlier approved a four-month moratorium on hazardous waste sites, while the commission worked on new rules. The law included

guidelines for new agency rules on granting hazardous waste disposal permits.

That moratorium is to end Wednesday, when the Water Commission votes on its proposed new regulations.

But environmental activists, who plan to stay at their tent city through Wednesday, say the new rules do not go far enough. For example, they say the buffer zone between hazardous waste disposal sites and homes or schools.

Colbert said that the agency must follow the law. "I dare say if we attempted to impose a new moratorium, it would not take a court very long to consider an appeal by a regulated industry to have that lifted," Colbert said.

He said that the proposed rules track the law and are stronger than past ones.

Monte Janssen of the Texas Chemical Council called the protesters' request "somewhat absurd." He said that denying permits for hazardous waste disposal sites will not eliminate the need for companies to get rid of such waste.

Immigration institutes family unity program

DALLAS (AP) — As of Tuesday, a large new group of people are eligible to apply to live in the United States, but a spokesman for one organization is warning that the applications could be used against them.

The family unity program, which goes into effect Tuesday, is part of the Immigration Act of 1990. It replaces another program known as "family fairness," enacted last year by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service.

The new program reduces the

amount of time that children and spouses of undocumented immigrants who have received amnesty must have been in the United States to be eligible to be protected from deportation. The previous cutoff date was Nov. 6, 1986. Now, it's May 5, 1988.

Many immigrant families were facing separation after passage of the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986. That law granted amnesty to undocumented immigrants who could prove that they had lived in the country since before Jan. 1, 1982.

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