



CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

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**CALIFORNIA SCIENCE EDUCATION CONFERENCE
PALM SPRINGS CONVENTION CENTER
OCTOBER 27-30, 2005**

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2005 California Science Education Conference. The landscape of California's present and future work force, coupled with technological advances, interrelates with science education in many ways. Thus, this year's theme, Science for a Changing World, is perfectly suited to provide teachers with science content and instructional strategies that will assist them in preparing their students for a lifetime of success.

This conference provides opportunities for teachers and scientific experts to converge and discuss all areas of science. Workshops offered provide attendees information on how to leverage learning experiences by incorporating and teaching other disciplines through the lens of science. In addition, the Professional Development strand includes sessions that qualify under the High Objective Uniform State Standard of Evaluation process as standards-aligned activities for No Child Left Behind compliance.

To support teachers, California has in place world-class science content standards, as well as a standards-aligned curriculum framework, instructional materials, professional development, and statewide assessments. Each of these contributes to a rigorous science education dedicated to increasing the number of scientifically literate students to fill the many science-based positions of the future.

In order to contribute to America's international competitiveness, its national security, and the quality of life of its citizens, we must move quickly to significantly improve student participation and achievement in science. The most effective way to accomplish this is through ongoing, sustained professional development for teachers. Teachers who participate in long-term professional development are better able to provide content rich courses that educate students and spark further interest in and passion for science and teaching.

Thank you for your tireless commitment to educate, nurture, and support California's students who represent the scientific minds of tomorrow.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jack O'Connell".

JACK O'CONNELL