



## News Release

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### **New “Biology and Global Issues” Curriculum to Be Introduced in Delaware Classrooms**

WILMINGTON, Del. Dec., 22, 2009 -- A new biology course, *Science and Global Issues*, will be introduced into Delaware public high schools in January 2010. The curriculum, developed by Science Education for Public Understanding Program (SEPUP), University of California, Berkley, Calif., and distributed by Lab-Aids of Ronkonkoma, N.Y., is sponsored by the DuPont Office of Education in collaboration with the Delaware Department of Education.

“The curriculum focuses on four overarching topics dealing with both biology and global issues,” said Keith D. Wing, PhD, DuPont senior research associate. “The topics include evolution, cellular biology, genetics and ecology. It links real-life issues and events, allowing students to learn in a practical environment.”

*Science and Global Issues* (SGI) is SEPUP’s latest standards-based, issue-oriented two-year high school integrated science course. The program is inquiry-based and highlights the science behind societal issues and problems. SGI focuses on the role of science in addressing the needs of modern society and the use of technology in advancing scientific knowledge. The course is presently being field tested around the country, including here in Delaware. The completed version of SGI Biology will be published in 2010.

In preparation for its debut, a *Science and Global Issues: Biology* workshop was held for 10<sup>th</sup> grade biology teachers and agriculture science teachers from throughout Delaware, Dec. 1-4 at the John W. Collette Center, Dover, Del. Part of the training was completed at the DuPont Experimental Station, Wilmington, Del.

“The trainers have had experience with the curriculum in classrooms and have valuable insight regarding its creation, the rationale behind the curriculum and the rough spots that Delaware teachers might face,” said April McCrae, Education Specialist — Delaware Science Curriculum.

“Delaware is leading the way in bringing a different view to biology and how it fits into global issues,” said Delaware Secretary of Education Lillian M. Lowery. “It is such a new curriculum

that this seminar will actually be a field test of the course. We are pleased that Delaware has a history of being a leader in science education and this new course continues that tradition.”

The course is being developed in cooperation with the Delaware Science Coalition. The current curriculum for many Delaware students involves three coalition units, including natural science and evolution, chemical biology, and genetics/biotech. This pilot program will allow Delaware teachers to compare a new curriculum with the current curriculum in a manner that is both qualitative and quantitative in nature.

SEPUP began in 1987 as a not-for-profit project to develop hands-on materials about chemicals and their use for schools and community groups. It was initially called CEPUP (Chemical Education for Public Understanding Program). As the mission of the project expanded to include other scientific disciplines, the name changed to SEPUP. SEPUP continues to be a not-for-profit project that is primarily supported by grants. Most of the curriculum is intended for schools. Lab-Aids is the sole producer and distributor of SEPUP materials.

DuPont is a science-based products and services company. Founded in 1802, DuPont puts science to work by creating sustainable solutions essential to a better, safer, healthier life for people everywhere. Operating in more than 70 countries, DuPont offers a wide range of innovative products and services for markets including agriculture and food; building and construction; communications; and transportation.

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