

SENCER Leadership Fellow Honors for Richard D. Sheardy

For Immediate release

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Washington, DC and Denton, TX; Professor Richard Sheardy of Texas Woman's University has been elected a 2008-2009 SENCER Leadership Fellow by the National Fellowship Board of the National Center for Science and Civic Engagement. Sheardy is professor and chair of chemistry and physics at Texas Woman's University.

Fellowships honor educators for their exemplary leadership and commitment to the improvement of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education. The Fellowships provide opportunities for honorees to continue their efforts. SENCER Leadership Fellows are elected to 18-month terms, following nomination and application review. A total of 76 Fellows were chosen from among the nominees drawn from the 1,300 eligible faculty members and academic leaders.

SENCER (Science Education for New Civic Engagements and Responsibilities) is the signature program of the National Center for Science and Civic Engagement, a research center affiliated with Harrisburg University of Science and Technology. A faculty development and science education reform initiative supported by the National Science Foundation, SENCER stimulates student engagement in science and mathematics through courses and programs focused on real world problems. This method extends the impact of student learning across the curriculum to the broader community and society.

Dr. Ann Staton, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at TWU, praised Dr. Sheardy's leadership on the TWU campus:

"Dr. Sheardy's enthusiasm about the SENCER approach and his leadership in developing science education initiatives that foster civic engagement have generated interest in SENCER ideals across disciplines on the TWU campus. We are excited about the possibilities for additional interdisciplinary activities as well as SENCER partnerships with local schools."

On behalf of the National Fellowship Board, David Ferguson, distinguished service professor of Stony Brook University and board chair, expressed his congratulations and had this to say about the honoree:

"Professor Sheardy's energy and imagination and his leadership in developing and teaching chemistry and biochemistry courses that incorporate SENCER ideals in courses at TWU are especially impressive. His initiatives to help peers adapt proven new pedagogies at the institutional and national levels---the latter in a Symposium he has organized and will chair at the 2008 Annual Meeting of the American Chemical Society---are noteworthy.

As a SENCER Leadership Fellow, Dick plans to collaborate with colleagues to develop a new partnership with the local school district to involve students in learning and civic engagement and to serve as a consultant to faculty who want to apply SENCER ideals in non-science disciplines, including the arts and business.”

“We in the National Fellowship Board and the National Center have the highest hopes and expectations for the success of Dick’s efforts and look forward to having the benefit of his advice and counsel as we plan for the future,” said David Burns, the executive director of the National Center for Science and Civic Engagement.

For more information on SENCER, NCSCE and the Leadership Fellows program, visit www.sencer.net, or contact (202) 483-4600.