

Verence
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Dr. Heller

DULUTH--A national conference to prepare materials for teaching geology will be held July 20-Aug. 28 on the ~~the~~ ^{DULUTH} campus ~~of~~ ^{OF THE UNIVERSITY OF} MINNESOTA, sponsored by the National Science foundation and the ~~national~~ research council of the National Academy of Sciences, the conference will attract some 30 top men in the field. NSF has allocated \$75,000 to the program.

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~~Harris~~

~~American Geological institute officials in Washington have assisted Robert L. Heller, UMD associate professor and head of geology, director of the project, in designing the conference. The conference steering committee includes;~~

Carl E. Dutton, Madison, Wis., U. S. Geological survey; Paul E. Fitzgerald, Tulsa, Okla., Dowell, Inc.; Ralph W. Marsden, Duluth, Oliver Iron Mining division, U. S. Steel Corp.; Chalmer J. Roy, Ames, Iowa State college; Robert C. Stephenson, Washington, D. C., executive director, American Geological institute; George A. Thiel, Minneapolis, University of Minnesota, and George M. Wilson, Urbana, Illinois Geological survey.

~~Conference participants are being selected to assure geographic as well as professional distribution.~~

~~Fields represented will include science teaching in the secondary schools, college and university geoscientists, state geological survey personnel and other earth science fields such as meteorology, astronomy and geophysics.~~

~~The National Science foundation has allocated \$75,000 for the project. NSF coordinator is Mr. Stephenson. NSF director Alan T. Waterman is assisting in setting up the Duluth project.~~

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Major purpose is to improve teaching of ~~the~~ geology through development of better instructional materials and programs. ~~"Teaching of the geological sciences is generally poor or lacking in most elementary and secondary schools throughout the country," the sponsors~~ (note.)

(The American Geological Institute is working with the UMD department of geology, headed by Robert L. Heller, UMD associate professor and head of geology, in ~~setting up the conference program.~~ PLANNING.)

(Professor Heller is chairman of the conference steering ~~and~~ committee and will be conference director. Other ~~steering~~ committee members are:

(Ex officio members are C. J. Roy, Ames, ~~steering~~ chairman, ^{AND CHAIRMAN OF THE AGI EDUCATION COMMITTEE} department of geology, Iowa State college, and R. C. Stephenson, Washington, ^{AGI} ~~steering~~ executive director, ~~steering~~.)

Conference participants will be:

(listed)

Insert #1

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Basic purpose of the conference is to stimulate improved teaching of the geological sciences in school science programs, particularly at the elementary and junior high school levels.

Conference planners feel that geological processes critically affecting human life and welfare are poorly understood by the average American. Cultural enrichment also stems from better understanding of geology, they point out.

Better teaching resources, particularly in elementary and junior high school science programs, will encourage science teachers to incorporate more geology into their teaching, Professor Heller notes.

In the high school, the intent is to supplement existing science offerings rather than to set up new geology courses.

Plans are to devote several days to general backgrounding, then to organize "task forces" of five to eight persons to study and attack specific problems, Professor Heller explains.

Materials will be tested, reviewed and revised prior to wide-scale distribution. The final published materials will be produced in relatively inexpensive pamphlet form to insure wide circulation.

EVALUATE AND CLASSIFY
~~The~~ conference participants also will assemble a complete inventory of all geology teaching materials now available. ~~These materials, including books, pamphlets, charts, film strips, films and other illustrative materials, will be evaluated and classified.~~

An open house for leading educators, scientists, government officials and industrial ~~representatives~~ executives to familiarize them with the conference program and participants will be ~~reference~~ held the ~~1~~ week of Aug. 17.