

2003 SPS Statement on Evolution and Science Education

Recently, some political and educational groups have attempted to undermine the importance of teaching the concepts of biological and cosmological evolution, thereby rejecting the consensus of the scientific community. Ideas about the structure and evolution of the universe, including Earth and its life forms, are unifying concepts in science. The development of students' informed views about these concepts is essential to a knowledge of science. These concepts should therefore be included and emphasized as a part of science frameworks and curricula for all students. The Society of Physics Students (SPS) recognizes that decisions about science education standards are the purview of state and local authorities; however, the position of SPS is that such decisions should involve education experience and scientific expertise, and be based on the body of research in science, pedagogy, and cognitive development. SPS encourages science educators and scientists to participate in the development of science education standards by involving themselves in the decision-making processes of state and local school boards.

Approved by the 2003 Society of Physics Students (SPS) National Council, the governing body of SPS and Sigma Pi Sigma, the national physics honor society, and officially adopted by the SPS according to the SPS By-Laws.

Contacts regarding this statement include:

Suzanne Nichols, SPS Executive Committee Student Representative

Department of Physics
University of Louisville
Louisville, KY 40292

Tel: (502) 852-6790
Email: ufpa@hotmail.com

Karen Williams, SPS President

Dept. of Physics
East Central University
ECU Box D5
Ada, OK 74820

Tel: (580) 310-5394
Email: kwillims@mac.com

Steve Feller, Sigma Pi Sigma President

Department of Physics
Coe College
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

Tel: (319) 399-8633
Email: sfeller@coe.edu

**Gary White, Director, SPS & Sigma Pi Sigma
Assistant Director of Education**

American Institute of Physics
One Physics Ellipse
College Park, MD 20740

Tel: (301) 209-3007
Fax: (301) 209-0839
Email: gwhite@aip.org