October 17, 2011

To the Stevens Community:

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Arthur Camins as Director of the Center for Innovation in Engineering and Science Education (CIESE) at Stevens Institute of Technology in August 2011. This appointment expands CIESE’s capacity to influence state and national STEM education K-20.

Arthur comes to Stevens with a career long passion to improve education and opportunity for all students and as an advocate for the importance of high-quality STEM education to prepare young people for life, work and citizenship. He joined Stevens from the Jefferson County Public Schools in Louisville, Kentucky where he served as the Executive Director of the Gheens Institute for Innovation. In that role he pioneered a new research and development division, with a focus on catalyzing and supporting innovative approaches to improving the effectiveness of urban education. This work was far ranging, including education policy, curriculum and professional development, environmental education, assessment, universal design for learning, collaborative professional culture, as well as post-secondary, civic and corporate partnerships to improve college readiness and college graduation rates. Most recently, he led a successful effort to win a highly competitive US Department of Education Investing in Innovation grant to improve teacher effectiveness and student achievement in persistently low-performing high schools.

He has led numerous large NSF projects over the last twenty years to improve K-12 STEM education. In Hudson, Massachusetts he was the principal investigator for two successful NSF grants. One, Formative Assessment in Science Through Technology, a Research on Learning in Education project, was a collaboration with the Lawrence Hall of Science at UC Berkeley to investigate the affordances of technology enhanced formative assessment to improve student learning. Another, a Local Systemic Change Project, Critical Math and Science Synergy (Critical MASS), developed methods and materials to enhance teacher content and pedagogical content knowledge in order improve student science and math learning. While serving as the Elementary Math and Science Director in Hudson, he was also the project director of the Mobile Inquiry Technology project a collaborative effort with the Concord Consortium to develop mobile computing and scientific probe-based activities to support mathematics and science inquiry, as well as leading the district’s assessment and evaluation efforts.

Arthur’s early career included teaching in the Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn where he later became the District Science Coordinator. In that role he served as principal investigator of Science in the Seamless Day, a NSF Teacher Enhancement collaboration among two urban minority Brooklyn school districts and Brooklyn College to introduce inquiry-based instructional strategies, exemplary science curriculum, and interdisciplinary methods to 700 elementary teachers. From 1994-97, he served as the Associate Director of the New York City Urban Systemic Initiative. In that capacity he designed a city-wide strategy to engage each of the city’s 32 school districts in designing and implementing change strategies for science and mathematics built around curriculum, professional development, assessment, administrative and policy support, and community alliances.

Reflecting his research interests, his recent publications include articles related to education policy in Education Week and Phi Delta Kappan and articles and presentation about formative assessment in science education.

Arthur earned his BA at the University of Wisconsin in Madison and MA at the State University of New York at Stony Brook.

Please help us welcome Arthur to the Stevens Community!

Sincerely,

Beth McGrath
Senior Research Associate &
Executive Director, Center for Innovation in Engineering and Science Education