

October 1, 2015

RE: South Carolina Metric Week Oct 4 – 10, 2015 Governor Haley's Proclamation

From: Dr. Don Jordan, Arts & Sciences, Center for Science Education, USC

And South Caroline Academy of Science

Dear Principal, District Leader, Teachers and Administration:

Nanotechnology is now one of the standards in education. Using the conventional language of science, students need to be able to describe the size of a nanometer and make size comparisons of nano-sized objects with other small objects. To accomplish this, students must be familiar with atoms, molecules, and cells. Students also need to have knowledge of basic units of the metric system and prefixes, as well as the ability to manipulate exponential and scientific notation. We have included a short test on measurement, volume, mass, and surface area and nanotechnology with our metric packet in 2015.

Quote by Patrick Gallagher Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology and Director, NIST

“We are a bilingual nation in measurement: We measure distance in miles, but fiber optic cable diameter in millimeters. We weigh deli products in pounds, but medicine in milligrams. We buy gasoline by the gallon, but soda comes in liter-size bottles. We parcel property in acres, but remote sensing satellites map the Earth in square meters. We use a mixture of metric and customary units depending on the context. NIST (National Institute of Standards and Technology) distributes resources for educators who are teaching the metric system in their classrooms. Many federal agencies use metric routinely, and the U. S. military does so almost exclusively.”

We have included: The South Carolina State Metric Proclamation, and documents which includes a list of year-round metric activities for students to engage in, a chart on the Scale of Things; a Test of 15 questions Measurement & Nanotechnology for grades 6 – 12,

a page that shows the correct usage of SI-Metric, a page that shows how teachers can obtain free sets of metric education resources and information about NIST Summer Institute for Teachers. We also have listed some additional true/false and multiple choice questions.

We think it is important that your teachers are notified of Metric Week 2015 in South Carolina. Information on all of the above can be found at the following site:

<http://www.artsandsciences.sc.edu/cse> See Other Programs then click the “Metric” link.