

March 18, 2003

## **Presidential Award Recognizes Goodchild's Efforts on Behalf of Mentoring in Science, Mathematics and Engineering**

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Santa Barbara, Calif. --Fiona Goodchild, education director for the Materials Research Laboratory (MRL) of the University of California at Santa Barbara (UCSB), is receiving a Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring at a ceremony being held today in Washington, D.C. Goodchild is one of 10 individuals named in the White House press release to be selected for the honor, which is also being conferred on six organizations.

The mentoring award, including a \$10,000 grant and a Presidential commemorative certificate, recognizes achievement of "remarkable results in increasing the participation of minorities, women and disabled students in science, mathematics and engineering."

Administered by the National Science Foundation (NSF), the award was created in conjunction with President George W. Bush's No Child Left Behind Act, which addresses the need to increase access to quality education for underrepresented and disadvantaged students.

Goodchild, who received her doctor of education degree in cognitive psychology from the University of Toronto in 1989, has served as education director for the MRL since 1993 and for the UCSB Center for Quantized Electronic Structures (QUEST) from 1990 to 2000.

Her publications include "The Promise of K-12 University Links Through NSF Science and Technology Centers" (1993) and with C. Johnson "Scientists as Mentors to Science Teachers" (2001).

Goodchild assisted with the planning and running of a conference on "The Changing Culture of Science," which brought together research scientists, graduate students, and university administrators at U.C. Berkeley to discuss the impediments to recruiting more women and underrepresented minorities into science and engineering. The conference resulted in a publication that makes recommendations about possible support mechanisms.

She has also designed and directed a partnership for science teachers in Santa Barbara County to develop the capacity of local schools to create instructionally sound, innovative science programs, through collaboration among science teachers, teacher educators, school administrators and research scientists.

The partnership Goodchild initiated between Santa Barbara City College and the MRL (whose funding is provided by the NSF) has brought students and science faculty to the UCSB campus every summer since 1993. Students, who are matched with MRL research groups, take part in the group's experiments for eight weeks and learn about career paths in science, as well as research ethics and oral and written communication skills. According to Goodchild, over 80 percent of the student interns have transferred into four-year colleges and 15 percent have matriculated to graduate programs in science and engineering.

Goodchild was the learning skills counselor/coordinator at the University of Western Ontario from 1976 to 1988 and served as that institution's intercollegiate women's squash coach from 1979 to 1984.

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## Images



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