Call for Proposals

“Promoting the Liberal Sciences: Science as Liberal Education”
A conference co-sponsored by
The American Conference of Academic Deans
And The Phi Beta Kappa Society
October 25—27, 2007
The Madison Hotel, Washington, D.C.

“Promoting the Liberal Sciences: Science as Liberal Education” is the topic of the third bi-annual conference co-sponsored by the Phi Beta Kappa Society and the American Conference of Academic Deans. These organizations have successfully co-sponsored two previous conferences on matters of importance to the intellectual and pedagogical work of the academy. “Liberal Education in America and the World” was held in October 2005 and “Intellectual Leadership in the Liberal Arts” in 2003. The conference format is designed to promote thoughtful inquiry, lively debate, and serious conversation among faculty, deans and other academic leaders with interest in and responsibility for the liberal arts and sciences curriculum.

Distinguished speakers will open and close the conference in plenary sessions. Each plenary session will include a respondent and audience questions. One session will involve a panel drawn from Washington’s governmental, policy, and higher education communities. The purpose of this session is to hear diverse perspectives on challenges and opportunities in science pedagogy.

This call for proposals invites academic deans, faculty, and administrators to submit abstracts for plenary and concurrent sessions. Nominations for speakers are also welcomed.

Five concurrent sessions held in three separate time slots, for a total of fifteen sessions over two days, will feature two- to four- person panels making forty-five minute presentations followed by forty-five minute discussions. Proposals are welcomed from individuals and institutional teams and should be focused on one of six contexts related to the conference theme:

1) Approaching scientific literacy through liberal study
2) The liberal arts dimension of teaching and doing science
3) Conflict and congruence (or ‘consilience’) in the approaches of the humanities and the scientifically-based disciplines
4) Historical reflections on the place of science in liberal education
5) The role of the liberal sciences in preparing women and men to engage as citizens
6) The powerful model of science for global discourse and collaboration
Proposals should address particular aspects of one of these contexts and provide a brief rationale explaining the presenters’ credentials and accomplishments in the proposed area of discussion.

Two- or three-page proposals are due by March 30, 2007 to Laura Rzepka, Administrative Director, American Conference of Academic Deans, 1818 R Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20009. Electronic submissions are preferred and can be sent to rzepka@acad-edu.org. Please visit www.acad-edu.org for information on proposal submission, conference registration and hotel reservations.