

## *Tips for Forming, Supporting, and Sustaining an NCTM Student Affiliate*

### **A Ready-Reference Guide**

#### **Forming:**

- Identify and approach conscientious students to initiate a core group (dedicated and consistent effort is a must).
- Determine the role and degree of involvement/leadership of the faculty advisors (responsibilities must be clearly understood by all).
- Have more than one advisor so that one person doesn't feel overwhelmed.
- Try to secure support from your department or college (if sponsors are faculty at an institution of higher education) so that you have some resources to sustain you in the first couple of years.
- Request a Student Affiliate Application Packet.\*

#### **Supporting:**

- Create a series of meetings that enrich professional development in unique ways (meetings that repeat what occurs in classes may be seen as less valuable).
- Seek support from local and state Affiliates to offer possible incentives (such as free or reduced registration fees at their meetings or one-year gift memberships upon graduation to welcome them to the profession).
- Have pizza or sandwiches at meetings, or even a cookout at the advisor's home.
- Plan fundraising activities that are interesting to participants.
- Involve local businesses that might benefit from having future employees who are good mathematical thinkers.

#### **Sustaining:**

- Promote the tangible benefits of membership (members will realize the intangibles as they progress in their professional development).
- Remember that it is a student organization; so let the students run the program.
- It helps if the nucleus of the group is not all seniors (graduation means that the group turnover rate will be high each year).
- Elect officers for the next academic year halfway through the current year. For example, elect the 2008–2009 officers in December 2007 so that they can begin to integrate themselves into leadership roles before they actually have to take sole responsibility.
- Strongly urge membership for anyone in mathematics methods courses.
- Have students take responsibility for maintaining the "In Good Standing" status with NCTM.

\*For more information on Affiliates in general or to have a group apply for affiliation, visit [www.nctm.org/affiliates](http://www.nctm.org/affiliates), or call (703) 620-9840, ext. 2104, or e-mail [affiliates@nctm.org](mailto:affiliates@nctm.org).