Dear Biology Colleagues,

This spring, I’m asking you to take a closer look at how much this terrific organization has to offer. It’s main focus is the exchange of information to strengthen Biology education at every level. The best way for you to reap the benefits of ACUBE is to attend our annual meeting and meet fellow biologists, many of whom teach the same courses you teach and face many of the same challenges you face each day. It is revitalizing and encouraging to spend 2 days with others who have taken risks in the classroom or who may have been particularly successful in addressing a problematic item in their teaching. Most of us who attend our Fall meeting always borrow ideas from others that help our students learn just a little more effectively or with a new twist. ACUBE can help you extend your teaching enthusiasm and relight the fire of curiosity that we all want to transmit to our students. Thus, participation is the key to our organization.

This Fall’s meeting at the University of Nebraska–Kearney focuses on the theme, “Biology in the Light of Evolution.” You’ll have an excellent opportunity to learn about the latest teaching strategies for putting evolution into your classes, as it truly is the common thread linking all living things. Two of our speakers will address application and integration of evolutionary biology into teaching. Many small group sessions will be offered on teaching evolution to majors and non-majors, to groups in the classroom and to students in field classes. We also have openings in our meeting program so that you may present some of your experiences with students that could be helpful for others. I always enjoy the discussion periods in these sessions where attendees, because they have taught similar courses, can ask some great questions and involve the group in the discussion. I invite you to come and participate with your fellow biologists.

Meanwhile, take advantage of other ACUBE resources available to you: One is a new email newsletter from the president that will keep you better informed of opportunities and events in which ACUBE is involved. Watch for it to arrive in April. A second resource is a new bulletin board site on the web where interested members can participate in discussions online at their discretion. This site will also enable easier communication between Steering Committee members throughout the year. Watch for this in early summer. A third resource is our updated and teacher-friendly website at http://acube.org. With help from Buzz Hoagland at Westfield State, MA, we recently added a link loaded with discipline-specific teaching resources that many members will find useful. And, with the generous help of Tim Mulkey at Indiana State, we are updating our online archives of our journal, Bioscene, so that each individual article published since 1975 will be accessible via pdf files. This will be a tremendous resource that I invite you to take a look at and use. Please consider submitting a manuscript on any aspect of your teaching. Bioscene is peer-reviewed and widely read by many biology educators nationwide. Your participation lets us all learn together more effectively.

So if you are a current ACUBE member, use the group to enhance your teaching and invite a colleague to join and seriously think about participating more in the constant challenge of teaching biology. If you are a new member, welcome! Please investigate our organization, attend a meeting, give a talk, submit a small manuscript or nominate yourself for a committee position. We would love to hear from you. Only through your participation can we help ACUBE enhance student learning in the biological sciences. I look forward to talking with you at future meetings.

Sincerely,

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