



LONGTIME EDUCATION LEADER JAMES RYAN NAMED FOUNDING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF OPENSIED

*New Non-Profit Initiative Provides High-Quality, Open-Source
Instructional Materials to Science Educators*

OpenSciEd, a new effort led by science educators, curriculum developers, teachers and philanthropic foundations to improve the supply of and demand for high-quality K-12 science instructional materials, today announced James Ryan as its founding Executive Director.

OpenSciEd was launched in 2018 as a non-profit to address the need among teachers and school districts for high-quality, open-source, full-course science instructional materials, as well as to support the implementation of middle school science instructional units as a result of the adoption and implementation of the National Research Council's document, *A Framework for K-12 Science Education* and the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).

Ten partner states volunteered to join this effort and are collaborating in several ways: through their state departments of education, multiple districts with a lead representative, or other regional education agencies working with specific schools. The partner states are California, Iowa, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Mexico, New Jersey, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, and Washington.

"Given Carnegie Corporation of New York's commitment to high-quality and equitable science education, we are excited to support OpenSciEd, which shows great potential for improving opportunities for students and teachers," said LaVerne Srinivasan, Vice President of Carnegie Corporation's National Program and Program Director for education.

"This is work that recognizes the important role that science plays in all our lives," said Ryan. "I am thrilled to accept this position and will, with the help of our leadership team, Advisory Board, and partner states, continue to help elevate science education for all students."

As founding Executive Director of OpenSciEd, Ryan, who will report to the Advisory Board, will be responsible for leading and managing the work of partners, educators, and stakeholders. Additionally, Ryan will represent OpenSciEd in the science and broader education community, working with partners to develop longer-term plans, and ultimately lead the effort through subsequent phases of developing and field testing K-12 science instructional materials designed for the *Framework* and the NGSS.

Most recently, Ryan was the Chief Learning Officer at Digital Promise and prior to that, was the STEM Executive Director for the San Francisco Unified School District, leading work to develop a coherent

vision of the STEM disciplines, including the development of high-quality instructional materials in science, mathematics and computer science. Because of the underlying work of building an educator community, a shared vision of instruction, and the capacity to build upon one another's expertise, San Francisco is leading the nation in adopting bold policies and programs anchored in equitable instruction.

"We had a rigorous process of selecting our first Executive Director and from the start, Jim Ryan has demonstrated a vision for science education that is consistent with that of OpenSciEd," said Jim Short, chair of the OpenSciEd Advisory Board and Program Director for Leadership and Teaching to Advance Learning, Carnegie Corporation of New York. "Jim Ryan has worked in a variety of capacities to improve education for all students and has put in place policies, curricula, and teacher support built on the belief that academic success in the STEM fields should not be predicated upon ethnicity, gender, or socio-economic status."

Prior to his work in San Francisco, Ryan was a high school administrator and teacher for nine years. He worked as team lead for PowerSchool, a former division of Apple Computers, and then served as Vice President of Key Curriculum Press, a publisher of math and science tools and curricula. He received his Bachelor of Science from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, California; and his Master of Public Administration from the College of Notre Dame, Belmont, California.

For more information on OpenSciEd, please visit our website at www.OpenSciEd.org