

UMass ignored state colleges

Kudos to the University of Massachusetts for being awarded a major NSF grant for mathematics and science teacher education. ("UMass gets key grant," Aug. 31 Sunday Republican.)

Despite the potential of this program, it is troubling that our commonwealth's public higher education flagship chose to collaborate with private elite colleges like Smith and Amherst while excluding Westfield State College and Worcester State College. These nearby public colleges play a more critical role in teacher education in the commonwealth than do the private elites.

They are also home to nationally known mathematics and science educators who have played key roles in shaping the curriculum frameworks and the direction of PALMS, our commonwealth's federally funded mathematics and science systematic initiative program.

The public colleges at Westfield and Worcester would have made enthusiastic, capable and productive collaborators in this program. It is unfortunate that UMass did not take the appropriate leadership role of including them.

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