

Institute for Advanced Study Receives Grant to Strengthen Mathematics in Sub-Saharan Africa

The Institute for Advanced Study has received a \$150,000 Project Initiation Grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to strengthen mathematics in sub-Saharan Africa. The grant was requested on behalf of the African Mathematics Millennium Science Initiative (AMMSI) and the African Institute for Mathematical Sciences (AIMS) to build mathematics capacity at the postgraduate and faculty levels.

After several decades of under-funding, the effectiveness and standing of mathematicians in Africa have declined to intolerably low levels. Thanks to low educational costs, new technical tools, and skilled local leadership, carefully targeted grants can allow Africa to "leapfrog" ahead by producing a new generation of graduate students and better linking now-isolated mathematics leaders with their colleagues within and outside the continent. The Mellon grant responds to a proposal developed in June 2004 at a two-day meeting in Nairobi of African and international mathematics leaders.