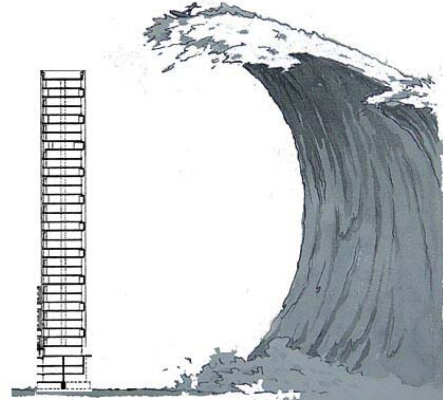# Technology for Teachers:
Tsunami Shelter Challenge

Dr. Rozeanne Steckler of NACSE (Northwest Alliance for Computational Science and Engineering) has received a $75,000 grant from the Symantec Foundation to purchase laptop computers and projectors for 20 middle school teachers in rural and coastal Oregon schools, to enhance the impact of the Tsunami Shelter Challenge project recently funded by NSF.

In Oregon and other coastal states, tsunamis and storm surges constitute very real threats, and students living near the coast are aware of the damage they can produce. For the Tsunami Shelter Challenge, students will use computer simulation software to model a tsunami shelter. They will test their designs virtually, using conditions similar to the Indian Ocean Tsunami (December 2004) and the storm surge produced by Hurricane Katrina (August 2005). As a capstone, the students will build a physical model of their most successful structure and test it in the Tsunami Wave Basin at Oregon State during the Tsunami Shelter Expo in spring 2008.

The project will bring technology skills, experiences, and knowledge to a broad range of teachers and their students. The targeted students are from underrepresented ethnic groups and largely rural and coastal areas of Oregon. Special effort is being made to include female and male students in equal numbers, and the materials developed for the project will be disseminated to schools nationwide. The topical issue of wave damage, particularly the loss of lives due to tsunamis and hurricane surges, will allow students not normally engaged in technology to understand and use it to solve problems related to the safeguarding of human life.