
Teacher Participant Posting

Biology: Ecology, Evolution and Diversity

Collaborating to Create a Science Learning Community Project

Background:

The *Collaborating to Create a Science Learning Community* is a three-year project funded by the United States Department of Education Mathematics and Science Partnerships Program to increase teacher content knowledge in science through the delivery of 2 courses per year. There will be 6 different science courses offered over 3 years. The goals of the project are to assist teachers, and ultimately their students, in better understanding scientific concepts using an inquiry-based approach that guides students in active science learning. Teachers in Chelsea, Everett, Malden, Medford, Wilmington, Mystic Valley Regional Charter School and 6 private schools are being recruited to participate in the *Collaborating to Create a Science Learning Community Project*. The courses are specifically designed to meet the science content needs of upper elementary, middle and grade 9 teachers (grades 5-9), but they will be open to teachers of all grades as space allows. Teachers of special education and ELL students are encouraged to apply.

Teachers will be selected to receive over ninety-two hours of professional development in science from June 2012 – August 2012 by participating in *Biology: Ecology, Evolution and Diversity*. Professional development for this course includes: (1) 60 hours of science coursework delivered by the Center of Science and Math in Context (COSMIC) at the University of Massachusetts Boston (see attached syllabus); and (2) participation in 32 hours of supplemental activities designed to assist participating teachers in the development of an inquiry-based science classroom lesson based on the course content (see attached).

Participant Qualifications/Requirements:

Participating teachers must:

- attend 60 hours of classroom and lab coursework led by the University of Massachusetts Boston faculty (June 28 - July 12, 2012) and held at the UMass Boston campus
- complete all course requirements including readings, homework, class participation, tests and other assignments
- participate in 32 hours of supplemental activities (face-to-face and online) designed to assist teachers to create classroom lessons incorporating the science content and inquiry-based learning experiences for students, facilitated by the district-based Teacher Learning Center Directors
 - attend a 2-hour district-based afterschool meeting/orientation in May/June 2012
 - course-related inquiry-based activities assigned by the instructor (8 hours)
 - attend a district-based callback meeting to share completed lessons and implementation experiences in September 2012 (3 hours)
 - participate in online facilitated supplemental workshops (19 hours)
- use electronic communication tool (Wikispaces) to collaborate with other project participants and build a Science Professional Learning Community
- develop an inquiry-based student lesson based on the Biology course content
- implement the student lesson with a class, make lesson revisions as necessary
- participate in all required evaluation activities (surveys, classroom observations, pre-post content assessments, etc.)

Remuneration:

- **\$50 registration fee** upon application, and additional \$255 (\$245 for UMASS Boston matriculated students) prior to the start of the science course will be paid by each teacher participant to UMASS for the 3 graduate credit course.

Each participating teacher will receive:

- **\$895 stipend** will be paid to each participant upon the successful completion of all project activities (coursework, supplemental activities, evaluation components, lesson development and implementation).
- **PDP's** (to be determined by the district)

For additional information regarding the *Collaborating to Create a Science Learning Community*, please email Molly Laden, Executive Director of TRITEC, Inc. (mladen@tritec-inc.org). Application letters must be submitted via email to Molly Laden **by 2:00 p.m., May 4, 2012.**
