
Teacher Participant Posting

Biology: Cell Biology and Genetics – A Human Approach

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 receive over ninety-two hours of professional development in science from July 2011 – September 2011 by participating in *Biology I: Cell Biology and Genetics – A Human Approach*. 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 (July 5 to July 15, 2011 in Boston, from 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., except on Fridays, which meets 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM)
- 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 June 2011
 - course-related inquiry-based activities assigned by the instructor (8 hours)
 - attend a fall 2011 district-based callback meeting to share completed lessons and implementation experiences (3 hours)
 - participate in online facilitated supplemental workshops (19 hours)
- use electronic communication tool (Wikispace) to maintain contact among participants and participate as a member of the 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:

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).
- Prior to the start of the science course, \$295 + registration fee will be paid by each teacher participant to UMASS for the 3 graduate credit course.
- **PDP's** (to be determined by the district)

For additional information regarding the *Collaborating to Create a Science Learning Community*, please contact Molly Laden, Executive Director of TRITEC, Inc. at 617-381-7426. Application letters must be submitted via email to mladen@tritec-inc.org.