
Teacher Participant Posting

Earth Science: Weather and Water

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, Medford, Malden, Everett, 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.

6 teachers from Medford will be selected to receive over ninety-two hours of professional development in science from January 2012 – June 2012 by participating in *Earth Science: Weather and Water*. 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).

The Earth Science course will be held in a to-be-determined partner district school (Everett, Malden or Medford).

Participant Qualifications/Requirements:

Participating teachers must:

- attend 60 hours of classroom and lab coursework led by the UMass Boston faculty (January 16- May 1, 2012)
- 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 January 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 (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 Earth Science 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.)
- **\$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.

Remuneration:

Each participating teacher will receive:

- **\$895 stipend and 3 graduate credits in science from UMASS Boston** 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 the Medford Teacher Learning Center Director, Kathleen Grace (kgrace@medford.k12.ma.us).

Application letters, including a check to UMASS Boston for the \$50 registration fee, must be submitted to: Superintendent Roy Belson **by 2:00 p.m., Friday, December 2, 2011.**
