

NEWS RELEASE

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Board of Governors for Higher Education
Department of Higher Education
State of Connecticut



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***Higher Education Department Awards \$531,312 for
Teacher Professional Development
— Six Projects Funded Under Teacher Quality Partnership Program —***

HARTFORD, March 8 — The Department of Higher Education has awarded \$531,312 in highly competitive grants to six teacher professional development projects designed by college faculty and school teachers and administrators. The projects – mostly seminars and workshops to begin this summer and continue on into the school year – will upgrade the subject matter mastery and teaching skills of school teachers across the state.

The awards are made possible by funds received by the Department under Title II of the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. With these funds, the Teacher Quality Partnership Grant Program hopes to increase the number of highly qualified teachers by supporting content-based activities developed by teams of college faculty working with teachers and administrators mainly from high need school districts.

This year's grant recipients are: Central Connecticut State University which received two grants; Eastern Connecticut State University; the Connecticut Academy for Education working with the University of Connecticut and Quinnipiac University; and Wesleyan University's Project to Increase Mastery of Mathematics and Science which received two grants.

“These projects are valuable because they provide teachers with the knowledge and skills they need to keep up with new learning approaches,” stated Higher Education Commissioner Valerie Lewis. “Their greatest value, however, is that they are designed by teachers themselves, working with experts from colleges and universities. Such partnerships are the best way of identifying and addressing teacher needs and, in so doing, raising both teacher quality and student achievement.”

In all, the Department received 15 applications requesting more than \$1.6 million. Of this year's awards, three are in science, two are in mathematics and one is a combination of science and math. The six selected projects will enroll more than 246 teachers and impact an estimated 14,800 students.

Proposals were evaluated by a panel of college faculty, teachers and curriculum specialists. Priority was given to projects supporting Connecticut's new curricular frameworks and content mastery in math, science and literacy.

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See attached list of 2004 Teacher Quality Grants.

**2004 TEACHER QUALITY PARTNERSHIP GRANT PROGRAM
CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
APPROVED AWARDS**

PROJECT: INTEGRATED MATHEMATICAL APPLICATIONS TO PROMOTE UNDERSTANDING

Sponsor: Central Connecticut State University

Amount: \$76,237

Director: S. Louise Gould, Department of Mathematics 860/832-0047

PROJECT: PROJECT SCIENCE

Sponsor: Central Connecticut State University

Amount: \$80,000

Director: Marsha Bednarski, Department of Physics and Earth Sciences 860/832-2943

PROJECT: CONNECTICUT CENTER FOR SCIENCE INQUIRY TEACHING AND LEARNING

Sponsor: Connecticut Academy for Education

Amount: \$152,824

Director: Terri Clarke 860/346-1177

PROJECT: SUMMER ACADEMY FOR INTEGRATED SCIENCE/MATHEMATICS FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHERS

Sponsor: Eastern Connecticut State University

Amount: \$102,317

Director: Catherine Tannahill, Education Unit, 860/465-5098

PROJECT: HARTFORD ELEMENTARY SCIENCE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Sponsor: PIMMS/Wesleyan University

Amount: \$74,927

Director: Robert Borello 860/685-6459

PROJECT: HARTFORD NUMERACY COACHES LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Sponsor: PIMMS/Wesleyan University

Amount: \$45,007

Director: Mike Zebarth 860/685-6456