

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 \$568,628 in Grants to Aid Teachers — Math, Science and History Focus of Summer Sessions—

HARTFORD, March 21 — Gaining insights into the Amistad Incident, exploring the latest discoveries in biotechnology, refashioning math and science classes into discovery centers – these are just a few of the exciting activities Connecticut teachers will take on this summer at six professional development programs selected for grant funds by the Connecticut Department of Higher Education.

Designed by college faculty and school teachers and administrators, the six projects are supported by \$568,628 in Connecticut Teacher Quality Partnership Grants. The grant program is part of Title II of the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. Program. 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 teachers in history, civics and government, science, mathematics, and reading.

This year's grant recipients are: the Connecticut Academy for Education working with the University of Connecticut and Quinnipiac University, Eastern Connecticut State University, Saint Joseph College, the Science Center of Connecticut working with the University of Hartford, and Wesleyan University's Project to Increase Mastery of Mathematics and Science (PIMMS) which received two grants, one of which involves Central Connecticut State University.

“These projects are valuable because they provide teachers with the latest knowledge and skills they need to keep up with new state standards,” 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 zeroing in on teacher needs and, in so doing, raising both teacher quality and student achievement.”

In all, the Department received 16 applications requesting more than \$1.6 million. The majority of this year's awards are in science and mathematics with one focusing on history and civics and government. The six selected projects will enroll more than 270 teachers and impact nearly 12,000 students.

Proposals were evaluated by three separate panels 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 2005 Teacher Quality Grants.

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**2005 TEACHER QUALITY PARTNERSHIP GRANTS
CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

PROJECT: CONNECTICUT CENTER FOR SCIENCE INQUIRY TEACHING AND LEARNING (\$141,341)

Beginning this June, this project will train 52 elementary teachers from Groton, Hamden, New Haven, Norwich and Wallingford in inquiry-based science teaching. Teachers will attend summer sessions and revise lesson plans during the school year guided by college faculty.

Sponsor: Connecticut Academy for Education/University of Connecticut/Quinnipiac University
Contact: Terri Clarke, 860/346-1177

PROJECT: SUMMER ACADEMY FOR INTEGRATED SCIENCE & MATHEMATICS (\$119,010)

30 middle school teachers from eastern Connecticut will attend a week-long summer session aimed at raising student test scores in math and science, with faculty visits to classrooms and web-based support offered during the school year.

Sponsor: Eastern Connecticut State University
Contact: Catherine Tannahill, 860/465-5098

PROJECT: AMISTAD AMERICAN PROJECT (\$58,517)

This project will take 30 Hartford middle and high school teachers aboard the Freedom Schooner Amistad and to the Connecticut Freedom Trail during a summer institute culminating in a winter conference showcasing teacher and student work.

Sponsor: Saint Joseph College
Contact: Kathleen Butler, 860/231-5322

PROJECT: SEARCH: LABORATORY BACTERIA TESTING METHODS FOR TEACHERS (\$36,779)

25 high school teachers will learn to incorporate bacteria testing activities into classrooms with follow-up visits by faculty and pre-service teachers during the year.

Sponsor: Science Center of Connecticut/University of Hartford
Contact: Hank Gruner, 860/231-2830 ext. 28

PROJECT: HARTFORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM (\$133,292)

Designed to raise student test scores in math, this project will upgrade the teaching skills 50 Hartford teachers in geometry, measurement, algebraic thinking and probability.

Sponsor: PIMMS/Wesleyan University/Central Connecticut State University
Contact: Mike Zebarth, 860/685-6456

PROJECT: HARTFORD ELEMENTARY SCIENCE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (\$79,689)

65 Hartford teachers will learn to use new assessment tools for evaluating student work in science during a summer session and academic year follow-up sessions.

Sponsor: PIMMS/Wesleyan University
Contact: Robert Borello, 860/685-6454