

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 \$814,253 to Train Teachers — Summer Sessions Focus on Bolstering Skills in Math, Science, History —

HARTFORD, April 6 — The Connecticut Department of Higher Education has awarded \$814,253 in competitive grants to support seven summer institutes in which college faculty will work with Connecticut school teachers to upgrade their subject mastery, especially in math and science, and make their classrooms more stimulating for students.

From “Earth Science *Rocks*” to enlivening fractions and estimates to field trips exploring the history of slavery in Connecticut, the seven seminars will train 214 teachers in subjects related to state curriculum standards and in research-based teaching methods. Each project begins with a summer institute and continues on into the school year with college faculty helping teachers incorporate new techniques into classroom teaching. Teachers also will learn to use results from state-mandated exams to address areas of student weakness.

The funds come from the Connecticut Teacher Quality Partnership Grant Program which is administered by the Department of Higher Education and part of Title II of the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. The program supports professional development activities designed by colleges and school districts to raise teacher quality and student achievement.

Grant recipients are: Albertus Magnus College, Central Connecticut State University, the Connecticut Academy for Education working with the University of Connecticut and Quinnipiac University, Eastern Connecticut State University, Saint Joseph College, the University of Connecticut and Western Connecticut State University.

“These projects help teachers keep up with changes in their field as well as with tailoring classroom instruction to state frameworks and assessments,” stated Higher Education Commissioner Valerie Lewis. “Just as important, they give teachers a valuable opportunity to learn together and from each other, guided by experts in their fields. Connecticut educators, and ultimately their students, have much to gain from these workshops.”

In all, the Department received 17 proposals requesting more than \$2.0 million. Proposals were evaluated by three panels of college faculty, teachers and curriculum specialists. Priority was given to projects supporting Connecticut’s curricular frameworks and content mastery in math, science and literacy. The majority of awards are in science, mathematics and reading with one focusing on history, arts and English (see attached list).

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2006 TEACHER QUALITY PARTNERSHIP GRANTS
CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

PROJECT: ELEMENTARY MATHEMATICS LESSON STUDY IN GREATER NEW HAVEN (\$76,300)

Sponsor: Albertus Magnus College, contact: Loel Tronsky, 203/773-8561
Designed for elementary teachers from New Haven, Ansonia, Hamden and Shelton, this project consists of an 8-day institute starting July 10 with significant follow-up during the school year to train teachers in reasoning, geometry and measurement and help them create and test new lesson plans with each other and with students.

PROJECT: PROJECT SCIENCE (\$140,000)

Sponsor: Central Connecticut State University, contact: Marsha Bednarski, 860/832-2943
This 5-day summer institute with school year sessions will train elementary teachers from New Britain, Bristol and Waterbury to meet state curriculum standards in life, earth and physical science, and help them integrate language arts and technology with science instruction.

PROJECT: CT CENTER FOR SCIENCE INQUIRY TEACHING AND LEARNING (\$188,000)

Sponsor: Connecticut Academy for Education/University of Connecticut/Quinnipiac University, contact: Terri Clark, 860/346-1177
K-12 teachers from 9 school districts will convene June 27 at Quinnipiac University to learn about and model new lesson plans incorporating the "inquiry approach" to teaching science which encourages student learning by doing stimulating, research-based classroom activities.

PROJECT: SUMMER ACADEMY FOR INTEGRATED SCIENCE, SOCIAL STUDIES & MATHEMATICS (\$110,000)

Sponsor: Eastern Connecticut State University, contact: Catherine Tannahill, 860/465-5098
Twenty-five middle school teachers from eastern Connecticut will attend an 8-day summer academy combining instruction in content areas and Connecticut's curriculum standards with hands-on science lab activities and field trips to help teachers and students relate theory to actual practice.

PROJECT: THE ART MUSEUM EXPERIENCE: GATEWAY TO HISTORY, JOURNEY TO EXPRESSION (\$64,953)

Sponsor: Saint Joseph College, contact: Kathleen A. Butler, 860/231-5322
Hartford middle and secondary school teachers will immerse themselves in Connecticut history, focusing on slavery and anti-slavery movements, and using museum resources and art and artifacts in classroom teaching during a 5-day institute starting July 31 with field trips to the Wadsworth Atheneum and Metropolitan Museum in New York.

PROJECT: MATH QUALITY EDUCATION FOR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS (MATHQUEST)
(\$110,000)

Sponsor: University of Connecticut, contact: Fabiana Cardetti, 860/486-3442
Strengthening teacher knowledge and student performance in math is the focus of this 10-day summer institute for 7-10th grade teachers from New Britain. Teachers will create lesson plans together, watch others teach and tailor lesson plans to better meet state curriculum standards and improve student scores on state-mandated tests.

PROJECT: WESTCONN'S INSTITUTE FOR SCIENCE TEACHERS (\$125,000)

Sponsor: Western Connecticut State University, contact: Theodora Pinou, 203/837-8793
New Haven and Norwalk grade 6-12 teachers will participate in a 6-day summer science institute and create classroom research projects which will be implemented and showcased on campus during the school year.