

# 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 Grants to Five Teacher Institutes — Sessions Focus on Math, Science, Art and Music —*

HARTFORD, April 28 — The Connecticut Department of Higher Education has awarded \$577,044 in competitive grants to support five 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.

The five seminars will train 155 teachers from 21 districts in subjects ranging from algebra to ecosystems to painting, all based on state curriculum standards and incorporating proven teaching methods. Each project begins with a summer institute and continues into the school year with college faculty and master teachers guiding teachers in applying their new knowledge and teaching techniques in their classrooms. Teachers also will learn to use results from state-mandated exams to address areas of student weakness. Some 9,400 students stand to benefit.

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

The five grant recipients are: **Albertus Magnus College, Lyme Academy College of Fine Arts, Sacred Heart University, the University of Connecticut, and the University of New Haven.**

“These institutes offer teachers the finest of subject matter training that is tailored to their specific classroom needs,” stated Michael Meotti, Commissioner of Higher Education. “Sessions are designed by both college faculty and school personnel to be both enriching and relevant to state standards, student assessments and classroom settings. Teachers are able to engage with faculty, master teachers and their peers throughout the course of the training. It’s professional development at its best.”

The five projects were selected from 12 proposals received by the Department. Proposals were evaluated by three panels of college faculty, teachers and curriculum specialists.

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*Teachers interested in attending one of the five institutes should contact the project directors listed on the attachment.*

**2008 TEACHER QUALITY PARTNERSHIP GRANTS**  
**CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

**PROJECT: USING LESSON STUDY TO DEVELOP ELEMENTARY MATHEMATICS TEACHER LEADERS (\$95,427): ALBERTUS MAGNUS COLLEGE**

Contact: Loel Tronsky, Assistant Professor of Psychology and Education, 203/773-8561

This 6-day institute in July and Saturday school-year sessions will train 24 elementary teachers from New Haven, Ansonia, Hamden and Stratford in rational numbers and in effective ways to assess student learning and tailor lessons to individual learning styles.

**PROJECT: ARTMUSICA: A NEW APPROACH TO STATEWIDE ARTS TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (\$145,243): LYME ACADEMY COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS**

Contact: Katherine Young-Murphy, 860/434-3571, ext. 120

Fifty middle and high school teachers from across the state may attend one of two 10-day institutes in July, one in music (composition, vocal improvisation and African drumming) at Fairfield University; the other in the arts (painting, observational drawing and sculpture) at the Lyme Academy College of Fine Arts. Both have two school year sessions which will reinforce training in content, the state arts standards and student assessment.

**PROJECT: COMBINING INQUIRY AND ECOLOGY IN ELEMENTARY SCIENCE EDUCATION (\$109,060): SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY**

Contact: Paul Massey, Professor of Education, 203/396-8350

During this 9-day July institute and school year sessions, 32 teachers will be trained to teach life sciences using inquiry-based approaches and science kits supplied by districts. A field trip to Long Island Sound is offered, and teachers may receive 3 graduate credits at the end of the project. Participating districts are Norwalk, Bridgeport, Monroe, Trumbull, Fairfield and Waterbury.

**PROJECT: [ACCESS: ACADEMIC CONTENT AND COMMUNICATION EQUALS STUDENT SUCCESS \(\\$104,512\): UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT](#)**

Contact: Megan Staples, Assistant Professor of Mathematics Education, 860/486-2097 or Mary Truxaw, Assistant Professor of Mathematics Education, 860/486-2880

This week-long workshop in July and bi-weekly school year sessions will train 25 grades 4-10 Hartford teachers in algebraic reasoning, numerical and proportional reasoning and problem-solving, with an emphasis on higher-order thinking. Teachers will also learn to build students' language skills in math, especially for ELL students.

**PROJECT: UNH-GREATER NEW HAVEN SCIENCE, NUTRITION AND ENGINEERING EDUCATION (\$122,802): UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAVEN**

Contact: Matthew Griffiths, Associate Professor of Physics, 203/932-7255

Some 24 elementary teachers from New Haven and West Haven may attend a week-long summer workshop on nutrition, recycling and ecosystems. During the school year, University faculty will help teachers implement new skills and analyze student work which will be showcased in a June 2009 science celebration hosted by the University.