Application for Middle and High School Science Teachers

Want to learn more about
--the ecology of the Willamette Valley and
--new ways to teach ecology to students?

Want to learn in the field as well as the classroom, with university scientists, teacher educators, and other teachers?

Want to receive 9 university graduate credits and a stipend for professional learning?

Then consider participating in the Willamette Valley Watershed Partnership Project (WVWPP)
What’s this grant all about? *

The grant program will offer teachers 9 university graduate workshop credits and a $600 stipend to participate in the following:

**Part 1: a two-week, three-credit summer (2006) institute**

*July 17-July 21 and August 14-18, 2006 8:00 to 4:00 daily*

at West Salem High School

that combines both class and field work to explore key concepts in ecology, hydrology and earth science and how they apply in the mid-Willamette Valley (some outside reading/course work required). In addition, instructional strategies for exploring and enhancing student understanding will be modeled.

**Part 2: three, two-credit follow-up classes** (one class each quarter: fall, winter, and spring, 2006-07). These classes will engage participants in making connections between the content and pedagogical strategies of the summer workshop and their classroom instruction. Participants will choose a content issue or instructional strategy from the summer workshop which they will apply to classroom instruction, document, reflect on, and share with colleagues during *one Saturday workshop per term*. Communication during the term will occur through on-line discussions. In addition, science and science education faculty from OSU will visit participants’ schools once each term to observe classes and provide on site support. The collaborative nature of professional development will be emphasized.

The grant is part of a program of **research** on the effectiveness of professional development and will involve both a “participation group” and a “control group” of teachers. This component of the project requires teacher participation in assessment of both teacher and student learning. Teachers will have a choice as to whether they will be in the participation or control group.

**Which teachers are eligible to participate?**

Any middle school or high school teacher at grades 5 to 12 is eligible to participate as long as he/she teaches science as part of his/her teaching responsibilities.

**What benefits will teachers in the participation group receive?**

- 9 university graduate workshop credits, paid for by the grant
- A stipend of $600, payable in two installments of $300 each, one at the end of summer 2006 and the other at the end of spring 2007, contingent upon meeting project requirements
- Professional development materials and travel expenses
- Ongoing mentoring, support, and professional development from OSU instructors
- Curriculum materials for teachers

**What benefits will teachers in the control group receive?**

A stipend of $250, payable in spring 2007, contingent upon meeting project requirements, plus a guaranteed space in professional development for 2007-08, if we receive continued funding.*

* Whether or not funding will be available for a 2007-08 program is not known at this time.
What will teachers in the PARTICIPATION GROUP be required to do?

1. Participate in all components of the program:
   - The two-week summer institute (July 17-July 21 and August 14-18, 2006, 8:00 to 4:00 daily, at West Salem High)
   - The follow-up classes (2006-07).
   - 3 Saturday workshops during the academic year.
   - 3 classroom visits from project staff.

2. Complete in-class and out-of-class assignments required for credit.

3. Teach a unit based on the content and methods featured in the summer institute and distance learning classes in at least one science class in the 2006-2007 school year.

4. Participate in the required components of project evaluation
   - Complete a pre- and post-institute assessment of teacher content knowledge emphasized in the institute.
   - Complete pre- and post-institute surveys.
   - Collect from parents and students permission forms for use of student work, test scores, and video footage.
   - Administer a pre- and post-assessment of student content knowledge.
   - Collect one or more examples of work from three students following guidelines established through the project.
   - Provide two sample lesson plans from the identified class or unit for teaching content addressed in the project.
   - A sample of teachers also will be asked to participate in an interview on their implementation of grant-related content/methods.

What will teachers in the CONTROL GROUP be required to do?

1. Complete two assessments of teacher content knowledge associated with the grant.
2. Complete a beginning of the year and end of the year survey.
3. Identify one science class or unit from which all data will be collected.
4. Collect one or more examples of work from three students following guidelines established through the project.
5. Provide two sample lesson plans from the identified class or unit.
6. Administer a pre- and post-assessment of student content knowledge.
7. A sample of teachers also will be asked to participate in an interview on their instructional practices.
Who are the grant partners? Willamette Curriculum Coalition (WCC), Willamette ESD (WESD), Salem-Keizer School District, Departments of Fisheries & Wildlife and Science & Mathematics Education, Oregon State University (OSU), Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (NWREL) and Teaching Research Institute (TR), Western Oregon University (WOU)

How do I sign up for this grant proposal? Please complete and sign the application on the following two pages. If you have questions, please see the final page of the application for contact information.
Willamette Valley Watershed Partnership Project, 06-07

Application for Middle School and High School Teachers of Science

Today’s date

Your name:

Your school:

Your school district

Your school e-mail address

Your principal's name

Your principal's e-mail address

Your school street address or PO box, include street number, city and zip code:

Your school phone number

Your home e-mail address

Your home street address or PO box, include street number, city and zip code:

Your home phone number

If in a departmentalized structure, indicate which science courses you teach or will teach in 06-07:

Grade levels you currently teach

Number of years you have been teaching as a licensed teacher

Are you currently “Highly Qualified” (in the terms of NCLB) to teach the science course content to which you are assigned?

Basis for Selecting Applicants. We seek 50 applicants: 25 for the participation group and 25 for the control group. If more applications are received than there is space available, applicants will be selected on a first-come, first-served basis.

-continued on next page-
Would you be willing to serve in EITHER the participation OR control group?

___ Yes        ___ No

If “No,” which group must you be assigned to in 06-07 as a condition of registering for the program?

___ Participation group    ___ Control Group

Stipends: Teachers in both the participation and control groups will receive a stipend: **$600** for teachers in the participation group or **$250** for teachers in the control group. (Stipends are awarded contingent on fulfillment of project requirements.) Teachers in the control group will be guaranteed a place in the professional development for 2007-08, if the program receives continuation funding (we don’t know yet whether funds will be available for 07-08).

*I certify that I have read and agree to the conditions set forth in this application.*

________________________________________________ __________________
signature         date

*I have read through the application and agree to support this teacher’s goal to participate in the project.*

_________________________________________ ________________
principal’s signature date

**Application Due Date: May 10, 2006 at 5:00 PM**

Please turn in only the last two pages of the application.

**Send to:**  Pat Badger, Curriculum  
Willamette ESD, 2611 Pringle Rd. SE,  
Salem, OR 97302  **or**  e-mail  pat.badger@wesd.org, or FAX:  503-385-4875

**Questions?** Please contact:  
Jerine Pegg, OSU, peggj@onid.orst.edu, 541-737-8929  
Carol Larson, WESD, carol.larson@wesd.org; 503-385-4728