



MathScience Innovation Center

Imagine. Create. Lead.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 13, 2009

MSP GRANT FUNDS ADDITIONAL COMPONENTS OF INTERDISCIPLINARY MASTERS DEGREE

The MathScience Innovation Center, in partnership with Virginia Commonwealth University and the College of William & Mary, received additional funding to enable selected middle and senior high teachers to complete a Master of Interdisciplinary Studies from VCU. In February 2009, the Center was notified that additional funding of \$156,840 was awarded through the competitive MathScience Partnership Grants program administered by the Virginia Department of Education.

The Interdisciplinary Master's Degree involves 18 credits in the sciences, 12 credits in education and 9 credits in statistics and research. Previously the Center had received \$522,576 to enable teachers to take 18 credits in the biological, earth and environmental sciences from VCU and the College of William & Mary. The additional funding will fund the 9 credits in statistics, research methods, and a directed research project. In addition, some funding will be used to support development of non-traditional delivery methods for the 4 education courses: Educational Administration, Instructional Leadership, School-Community Relations, and School Law.

The project seeks to improve middle and senior high teachers' abilities to prepare students for rigorous coursework in the sciences. Core offerings include coursework from VCU's Center for Environmental Studies such as oceanography, meteorology, introductory and advanced environmental field courses, and geospatial technology, as well as new courses in climatology and hydrology. Through VCU's Summer Institute for Teachers, teachers will take courses in biotechnology, forensic science and systems biology. To better prepare teachers of pre-AP, AP, and dual enrollment, special courses on AP Biology and AP Environmental Science are offered.

Thirty teachers from seven school divisions are currently participating in the grant.

Chesterfield County: Stephanie Barber, Frank Cardella, Laura Davenport, Jacqueline Gooden-Seay, Reese Gordy, Michelle Huber, Jacqueline Marshall, Felicity Selvoski;

Essex County: Kenneth Newsom;

Henrico County: Mark Apelt, Carla Harrison-Lane, Julia Jackson;

Hopewell City: Jessica Ciokan, Kelly Kirksey, Kelly Ubbing;

Powhatan County: Michelle Whitehurst;

Richmond City: Deandra Braxton, Diana Braxton, Maricia Chavis, Kimberly Colbert, Joyce Davis, Renee Goode-Boyd, Cynthia Grant Lewis, George Powell, Mary Smith, Denise Stanton, Sandra Taylor;

Roanoke City: Teresa Grisso, Melinda Richardson.

The Math Science Innovation Center is a 42-year-old organization dedicated to futuristic math and science education for K-12 teachers and students. Its vision for 2015 focuses on implementing new programs in fractal geometry, engineering, nanotechnology, environmental modeling, and distance learning. The MathScience Innovation Center is an educational consortium comprised of eight school divisions: Chesterfield, Colonial Heights, Hanover, Henrico, King William, Petersburg, Powhatan, and Richmond. Other divisions also participate through abbreviated memberships: Charles City, Hopewell, Prince George, and the Steward School.