



NTSTEM CENTER @ TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

North Texas Science Technology and Engineering & Math Center

Activity Report June 2007

Texas A&M University

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DFW/NTSTEM Summer Institute Activity: The NTSTEM center has recruited several TSTEM academies to participate in the DFW/NTSTEM Summer Institute. Academies participating include: Berkner, The Academy of Irving, Conrad, METSA (Carrollton-Farmer's Branch), and Spruce High School. Four of the five academies will be sending full teams of five to six math/science/technology educators/administrators to participate in the institute. The NTSTEM center is covering the cost of the registration fee and providing funding for attendance incentives for the teachers participating.

New Format for Partners Proposed: The NTSTEM center would like for some partner to assume the role of chair for the partner group for the year 2007-2008. This will be discussed at the upcoming July 16th partner meeting, and hopefully, the group will agree, and we will emerge with a new chairperson. We at Texas A&M will continue to facilitate the meetings, but someone else can chair. We will work closely with the new chair.

Summer 2008 STEM North Texas Area Conference: The NTSTEM partners decided at their recent meeting on May 7th to host a STEM awareness conference in Summer 2008. Planning for this conference began with a subcommittee planning meeting which was held at Region 10 on June 5th. Dr. Sandy Maddox of Region 10 is chairing the subcommittee composed of Julie Gentry, John Shellene, Maria Conroy, Bill Warner and Dr. Gerri Maxwell. A representative from Texas High School Project may be joining us at these future planning meetings.

Summer Partner Meeting: The next partner meeting of NTSTEM will be hosted at Region 10 on July 16th from 2:30 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. in the boardroom. The Summer 2008 planning subcommittee will provide a report on progress. If partners have other suggested agenda items, please contact Dr. Gerri Maxwell.

Summer Professional Development: Summer professional development in project-based learning at Dallas High Schools will include serving North Dallas, Kimball, Spruce and Conrad High Schools. Three of the four schools have scheduled August dates.

Professional Development Day #4: This event was held Friday, May 4th at the Verizon Solutions Center with Spruce, Kimball, and North Dallas High Schools attending. The project based lesson addressed exponential growth and decay using concrete models, tables, graphs, and algebraic solutions (TEKS - Alg I 3C) integrating genetic engineering and world population growth. The scenario investigated was "what effect would genetic engineering involving increasing life span have on the world population (exponential growth)". Other scenarios discussed included environmental engineering and wind load on structures (exponential decay).

Partner Website Launched: The Partner Database Website developed by Region 10 in contract with the NTSTEM center has been launched. Partners viewed the beta site at the May 7th meeting and provided input. The site is available at: <http://www.ntstem.region10.org>.

NTSTEM Staffing Change: Research Assistant Candice Cannon resigned recently to return to teaching in the East Texas area. We wish Candice the best! During the summer months, Danielle Kotara, a recent graduate of TAMU (math major), has been hired as a graduate assistant to provide clerical and other project support.

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