National Science Foundation-funded

High Expectations for Learning in Middle School Science

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HELMSS IS A TWO-PHASE PROJECT

- Curriculum planning
- Pilot new instructional materials for adoption
- Teacher leadership: New science content courses and seminar on leadership, standards, curriculum, pedagogy, assessment
- Principals network and professional learning
- Building partnerships
- Project evaluation-Lesley University’s PERG

**Phase II: Scaling Up (2003-2007)**
- High quality professional development for ALL middle school teachers of science
- Expansion of the Principals network
- Implementation of state-of-the-art science instructional materials
- Materials support for implementing new middle school science programs

Funded by
National Science Foundation
Rhode Island College  East Bay Educational Collaborative  Ten Partnering Districts

For More Information, Contact:
Dr. MacGregor Kniseley, Project Director
Jeff Soares, Project Coordinator

HELMSS Office, HM 067. Rhode Island College, Providence, RI 02908-1
phone: (401) 455-6559  fax: (401) 455-6369  email: SLIP@ric.edu  web site: www.ric.edu/hr
High Expectations for Learning in Middle School Science

FUNDED BY
National Science Foundation, Rhode Island College
East Bay Educational Collaborative, Ten Partnering Districts

PARTNERING DISTRICTS
Bristol-Warren, Coventry, East Providence, Johnston
Little Compton, Middletown, Newport, Portsmouth, Providence
Tiverton

WHO WE ARE
PROJECT DIRECTOR
Dr. MacGregor Kniseley, Rhode Island College, Professor, Elementary Education

PROJECT COORDINATOR
Jeff Soares, Rhode Island College

PROJECT MANAGEMENT TEAM
Ron DeFronzo, Science Specialist, East Bay Educational Collaborative
Dr. Richard Green, Professor of Elementary Education, Rhode Island College
Anita Hennessy, Operations Manager, Rhode Island Science Materials Resource Center East Bay Educational collaborative
Jerry Kowalczyk, Executive Director, East Bay Educational Collaborative
Maria DeFreece Lawrence, Assistant Professor of Elementary Education, Rhode Island College
Dr. James Magyar, Professor of Chemistry, Rhode Island College
Jeff Soares, Project Coordinator, HELMSS Project

PROJECT EVALUATOR
Sabra Lee, Senior Research Associate, Lesley University, Program Evaluation and Research Group

BACKGROUND
HELMSS builds upon the tremendous success of Kits In Teaching Elementary Science (KITES). Since 1995 more than 800 East Bay teachers from 8 districts and 48 schools, serving 13,000 students each year, benefited greatly from the new services and resources. With a link to teacher preparation programs, more than 1,500 elementary pre-service teachers experienced science pedagogy and NSF-supported instructional materials used by K-6 teachers. The infrastructure established through KITES supports 12 other Rhode Island districts and two in southeastern Massachusetts. Coventry, Providence, and Johnston have joined seven East Bay districts for the first phases of the HELMSS initiative. HELMSS is actively recruiting other districts to join the next phase a comprehensive systemic change initiative.

NON PARTNERING DISTRICTS
Districts who wish to participate in the HELMSS Project but are not partners are encouraged to become involved as "adjunct members" of the initiative. These districts can participate in training, purchasing of instructional materials and refurbishing modules. These districts are expected to incur the costs of instructional materials and professional development of teachers and administrators.

TEACHER LEADERSHIP PROGRAM
Teams of middle teachers of science from each partnering middle school are invited to participate in a two-year program. As a result of the leadership program, teams of teachers will
- extend knowledge of science content, technology, pedagogy, curriculum, standards, and assessment through 3 courses and seminar
- develop a supportive learning community in middle schools, district, and region.
- assist in building capacity of school, district, and region’s capacity for improved middle school science programs
- collaborate in creating professional development for teachers who will participate in a comprehensive middle school science reform initiative.

Benefits to participating teachers include:
- stipend
- up to 12 graduate credits for three innovative content courses and seminar
- teacher resources
- member of learning community of middle school teachers and higher education faculty
- high quality professional learning

Teachers will participate in three innovative courses in earth/space science, physical science, and life science co-taught by a team of higher education faculty and middle school teachers of science and a seminar in science pedagogy, curriculum, and leadership lead by higher education faculty and science education specialists.

PRINCIPALS NETWORK
A network will enable principals from the ten districts to develop ways to integrate inquiry science and other disciplines and establish a supportive professional learning community in their building. Shared, professional learning will assist in curriculum planning, implementation of new instructional materials, and coordinating other reform efforts.

PILOTING INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS
The project assists in decision-making about new NSF-funded science instructional materials that address needs of middle school students: academic rigor, equity, developmental appropriateness. The project assists districts in planning standards-based science curriculum; science module training; purchase and refurbishment of science modules; and delivery of materials.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT
Dr. MacGregor Kniseley
Project Director
HELMSS Office
HM 068
Rhode Island College
Providence, RI 02908
Phone: 401-456-8559
Fax: 401-456-8369
E-mail: mkniseley@ric.edu
www.ric.edu/helmss