

## Ohio Department of Education Science Education Professional Development Opportunity 2008-2009

### Goal:

To initiate a state-wide network of science curriculum developers, presenters and teacher educators committed to improving the teaching and learning of science K-8 by:

- Increasing the implementation of research-based science education practices in Ohio's K-8 classrooms; and
- Developing products (participant papers) that will provide K-8) integrating of new research-based practices in Ohio's science classrooms.

### Method:

A web-based system developed by iDiscovery\* will be used to interact with participants from around the state. Staff from iDiscovery will be responsible for training facilitators and maintaining interconnectivity and software required for the delivery of web-based materials and participant interactions. This includes hosting materials, providing e-mail ability, establishing class segmentation (limiting each "class" to 20 or less participants), facilitating asynchronous communications, and providing ongoing advice as needed to maximize participant interactions. A state university will provide graduate credit and provide framework for technology.

### Audience:

Science leaders in the State of Ohio will apply for the course. Applications will be available at the National Science Teacher's Regional Conference in Cincinnati, December 4-7, 2008 at the Ohio Department of Ohio presentation and at the Science Education Council of Ohio (SECO) Booth.

### Participants:

Science consultants from the Ohio Department of Education will serve as facilitators  
Selected leaders from each of ten SECO districts  
School district curriculum developers (district level only – science)

### Implementation Timeline:

November 2008 – December 2008	Recruit groups and college
November 2008 – January 2009	Set – up web-based classroom
January 2009	Send out letters of acceptance and course materials list
January 2009 – May 2009	Course instruction
May 2009	Collect and review final projects
May – June 2009	Paper presentations
December 2009 – June 2010	Program evaluation

### Materials:

- **Ready, Set, Science.** Authors: Sarah Michaels, Andrew W. Shouse, Heidi A. Schweingruber. [National Research Council.](#)
- **Taking Science to School, Committee on Science Learning, Kindergarten through Eighth Grade.** Editors: Richard A. Duschl, Heidi A. Schweingruber, and Andrew W. Shouse.
- **How People Learn: Brain, Mind, Experience, and School.** Authors: John D. Bransford, Ann L. Brown, and Rodney R. Cocking, Editors; Committee on Developments in the Science of Learning, [National Research Council.](#)
- **Examining Pedagogical Content Knowledge: The Construct and its Implications for Science Education:** Author: Julie Gess-Newsome.
- **Teaching with Brain in Mind.** Author: Eric Jensen.

\* Professional development through Web-based learning communities provided by a grant under the federally funded Improving Teacher Quality Program, administered by the Ohio Board of Regents. Additional significant funding is provided by Miami University.



3. Describe any plans to strengthen and/or expand your professional development efforts and why you believe others might want to consider adopting/adapting them.

4. How open is your school/school district to providing the time and/or resources for you to provide others with similar professional development opportunities?

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**RETURN TO BY JANUARY 5, 2009:**  
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