

PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

THIS FALL, THE NJ SSI REGIONAL CENTERS WILL BEGIN COHORT 4 OF THE NJ SSI PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM FOR EXCELLENCE IN MATHEMATICS, SCIENCE, AND TECHNOLOGY. This twelve-day professional development program will assist local districts in improving their mathematics and science education programs and will provide coherent, consistent support for implementing standards-based curricula.

Through strategic planning, districts identify professional development needs, use data for decision-making, develop more effective instructional methodologies and build capacity for reform. Information is a key to success, and the program enables districts to reflect on existing student achievement

patterns and plan appropriate improvement strategies.

Currently, twenty-two school districts are participating in the 2002-2003 Partnership Program and to date,

“The partnership Program was a great experience for the staff to work with a knowledgeable group and provided a springboard for other activities.”

62 school districts have completed the program. Recent data from an evaluation survey given to Cohort 1 shows that 77% of the participating districts rated the Partnership Program to be Good to Excellent. In addition, 89% of the districts said that they had

developed a strategic plan to reform mathematics, science, and /or technology. As one participant attests, "we developed a strategic plan that greatly improved our implementation of the NJ Core Curriculum Standards."

Many of the districts from Cohort 1, 63%, continue to meet and make further revisions to their plans and 59%

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PARTNER PROFILE



NJ SSI WELCOMES HECTOR LOPEZ AS THE NEW SENIOR SCIENCE SPECIALIST FOR BOTH NJ SSI AND NJ MSP

(NEW JERSEY MATH SCIENCE PARTNERSHIP). Hector hails from Massachusetts where he was formerly the Implementation Advisor and K-12 Outreach Liaison for the Center for the Enhancement of Science and Mathematics Education (CESAME) and the Center for Subsurface Sensing and

Imaging System (CenSSIS) at Northeastern University.

Hector is a perfect fit with NJ SSI. He has designed and facilitated professional development workshops focusing on education reform establishing alternative forms of assessment. He has also assimilated, developed, and implemented the concepts of project-based learning and service learning into the K-12 curriculum.

Hector is enthusiastic about his new role at NJ SSI. "I come from a similar background from my work at

Northeastern University, but this is exciting because my work with NJ SSI and NJ MSP in particular is going to be more specific. I'll be working with twelve school districts at a more intense level. But at the same time, I will still be able to focus on helping to implement education reform throughout the state."

Hector has extensive experience integrating different types of technology with academic content, a learning philosophy that NJ SSI has supported since its inception. He has developed Internet strategies and is fluent in a number of computer languages. Hector

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Welcome back! We are pleased to bring you our first NJ SSI Newsletter of the new school year and hope you had a pleasant and productive summer. Thanks to continued funding from the State of New Jersey and the National Science Foundation, NJ SSI continues to move forward this fall with exciting programs in mathematics, science, and technology education.

Orientation sessions for the NJ SSI Partnership Program will be held in September, with the exception of the session at Montclair State University, which will be held in December. The article on The Partnership Program lists the exact dates and locations of each and includes exciting results from our survey of Cohort 1. We look forward to working with a new group of districts this year. Recruitment for the Program takes place in the fall, but the NJ SSI Regional Centers will be working with Cohort 4 districts well into 2004. In addition to the Partnership Program, the Centers will continue to offer other services and resources, as will our Specialty Sites.

NJ SSI welcomed a new staff member this summer, Hector Lopez, our new Senior Science Specialist, who is highlighted in this issue's Partner Profile. We also look forward to working with Beth Ebler, the new State Science Specialist for the New Jersey Department of Education.

Finally, don't forget to stop by our booth or attend one of our sessions at the mathematics and science conventions in October. We look forward to a productive upcoming academic year.

Sincerely,

Deborah H. Cook, Ed.D.
Project Director and Principal Investigator

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have submitted a Standards Implementation Grant proposal for their district. "Our district developed a new vision for integrating the teaching of mathematics, science, and technology instruction for ALL students K-12," said another participant.

Join Cohort 4 of the Partnership Program! Teachers and administrators from schools and districts throughout

New Jersey are invited to attend an Orientation Session at any one of the Regional Centers to learn more about the Program and how to register. Locations, dates and times are listed below. Contact your local Regional Center for more information or visit the NJ SSI web site at <http://njssi.rutgers.edu/> and click on News and Events.

DATES AND TIMES OF ORIENTATIONS AT NJ SSI REGIONAL CENTERS

County College of Morris

September 23, 2003, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. (Orientation)
Program Dates: December 2, 2003, February 12, 2004, March 31, 2004, May 11, 2004
Summer Component: July 12-16, 2004 (Morris, Sussex, Warren, Essex, and Passaic)
Patricia Rokosz/Daniel Jazwinski (973) 328-5378

Rowan University

September 22, 2003, 9:00 – 11:30 a.m. (Orientation)
Program Dates: December 10-11, 2003, January 28, 2004, March 31, 2004
Summer Component: August 9-13, 2004 (Atlantic, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Ocean, and Salem)
Janet Caldwell/John Faubl/Ellen Rothschild (856) 256-4827

The College of New Jersey

September 17, 2003, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. (Orientation)
Program Dates: January 14, 2004, February 18, 2004, March 24, 2004, April 28, 2004
Summer Component: July 19-23, 2004 (Mercer, Burlington, Hunterdon, and Somerset)
Robert Weber/Wendy Paulsen (609) 771-3486/2776

Rutgers University

September 24, 2003, 9:30 – 12:00 p.m. (Orientation)
Program Dates: December 3, 2003, February 11, 2004, March 30, 2004, May 12, 2004
Summer Component: June 21-25, 2004 (Middlesex, Monmouth, and Union)
Carolyn Maher/Emily Dann (732) 932-7496/ ext. 8262/8156

Montclair State University

December 10, 2003, 9:00 – 12:00 p.m. (Orientation)
Program Dates: December 17, 2003, January 7, 2004, January 14, 2004.
Remaining dates to be determined. (Bergen, Passaic, Hudson, and Essex)
Jacalyn Willis/Anna Mazzaro (973) 655-7753

Note: Three follow-up dates will be determined at each site.



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has also used photography (film and digital) to teach science and mathematics.

"We are delighted to have Hector on board," said Deborah Cook, NJ SSI Project Director. "He will be an asset to NJ SSI as we move forward and continue to implement innovative methods in mathematics, science and technology education."

For more information on these events and others please visit the News & Events section on the NJ SSI web site at <http://njssi.rutgers.edu/>

SEPTEMBER

9/22 Technology Integration in Math and Science Education (TIMSE): Hardware and Peripherals
Center for Math, Science and Computer Education (CMSCE), Rutgers University, Busch Campus

OCTOBER

10/8 TIMSE: Education Software
CMSCE, Rutgers University, Busch Campus

10/14- New Jersey Science Convention
10/15 *Garden State Exhibit Center, Doubletree Hotel @ Holiday Inn, Somerset, NJ*

10/17, Introductory Family Tools and
10/18 Technology Workshop
The College of New Jersey

10/17, Bring the Ocean Into Your Classroom!
10/18 For K-5 Teachers
New Jersey Marine Sciences Consortium

10/18 Advanced Family Tools and
Technology Workshop
The College of New Jersey

10/22 TIMSE: Web Resources
CMSCE, Rutgers University, Busch Campus

10/23- New Jersey Mathematics Convention
10/24 *East Brunswick Hilton, East Brunswick, New Jersey*

10/24 GEMS – The Real Reasons for Seasons
Raritan Valley Community College – Planetarium

10/24, Bring The Ocean Into Your Classroom!
10/25 For Middle School Teachers
New Jersey Marine Sciences Consortium

NOVEMBER

11/14 TIMSE: Multimedia and Web Design
CMSCE, Rutgers University, Busch Campus

11/14 An Introduction to Hands-On Astronomy
Raritan Valley Community College – Planetarium

11/14, Mathematics and Marine Science
11/15 for K-8 Teachers
New Jersey Marine Sciences Consortium

11/14 Introductory and Advanced Family Tools
and Technology Workshop
The College of New Jersey

11/15 Introductory and Advanced Family Tools
and Technology Workshop
The College of New Jersey

11/19 GEMS – Moons of Jupiter
Raritan Valley Community College – Planetarium

DECEMBER

12/4 TIMSE: Technology Integration
and Meeting the Standards
CMSCE, Rutgers University, Busch Campus

12/11 Life in the Universe
Raritan Valley Community College – Planetarium

CORPORATE PARTNER HELPS NJ SSI IMPROVE SCIENCE TEACHING

THE MERCK INSTITUTE FOR SCIENCE EDUCATION (MISE), ONE OF NJ SSI'S CORPORATE PARTNERS, WAS FOUNDED IN 1993 WITH THE MANDATE TO IMPROVE STUDENT PERFORMANCE AND PARTICIPATION IN SCIENCE.

“We appreciate our partnership with SSI, as the organization has been a leader in ensuring that science is considered a core content area in the state. They have specifically helped to support a professional development program of ours called the Leader Teacher Institute (LTI) and they have provided expertise and hardware to better integrate technology into our programs.”
Focusing on students in kindergarten through the eighth grade, MISE creates effective professional development programs, changes classroom and school culture, and influences state and national policies in science education with the help of vital partnerships with educators, parents, and education organizations



The organization seeks to wed children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning with an investigative approach to science. MISE plays a major role in supporting NJ SSI and its work, as both organizations share similar ideals concerning teaching and learning.

Dr. Carlo Parravano, Executive Director of MISE, discusses how these partnerships, specifically NJ SSI's have added to MISE's efforts. “We share the same vision for science education. NJ SSI has had a huge impact on aligning statewide policy with the changes that we're bringing about in the classroom,” said Dr. Parravano.

such as NJ SSI. MISE works with teachers, administrators, parents, and volunteers to make standards-based science education a reality in its partner school districts and to move classroom practice closer to the vision of good science teaching.

For more information on MISE, please visit their website at www.mise.org

NEWS FROM THE DOE

THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (NJ DOE) WELCOMES BETH EBLER, THE NEW STATE SCIENCE COORDINATOR. While her role at the DoE is new for her, Beth has been working with NJ SSI since its inception over ten years ago. In addition, Beth has been involved with PRISM, the science education center at Montclair State University and a NJ SSI Regional Center. Beth and NJ SSI share a passion for assisting teachers and administrators in learning innovative, hands-on approaches to teaching science in the classroom.

Beth has many years of experience in overseeing science in education. As former Science Supervisor for the Newark Public Schools, where for the past fourteen years she has been recognized as an innovator and a leader, Beth has provided many opportunities for student achievement and support at the K-12 level.

In her role as Science Coordinator, Beth says that she wants to ensure that equity exists across the state and that every teacher from every district can learn these innovative approaches and practice them in the classroom.

“My goal is aimed at extending and updating the professional knowledge, preparedness, and beliefs of teachers by incorporating experiences that are consistent with teachers’ goals, and with the state standards and assessments,” says Beth. “In addition I hope to encourage collegiality between teachers and university partners, and to facilitate communication and learning opportunities among teachers.”

For more information from the DoE, visit the Department’s web site at <http://www.state.nj.us/education/>



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