

NJ SSI AWARDS OVER \$190,000 IN DISTRICT GRANTS

This year NJ SSI is distributing \$192,000 to 15 New Jersey school districts to improve mathematics, science, and technology education.

This is the seventh year that NJ SSI has awarded these grants to districts across the state.



More than 50 schools and districts applied for the 2004-2005 Standards Implementation Grants. Congratulations to the selected schools and districts: **Nutley, Teaneck Charter School, Rutherford, Egg Harbor City, Penns Grove-Carney's Point, Haddon Heights Consortia, Washington Township, Shore Regional High School, Howell Township, North Brunswick, South Brunswick, Woodbridge, Hope Academy Charter School, Maple Shade, and South Bound Brook.** They have received grants ranging from \$5000 to \$20,000, which will support professional development and successful models of hands-on, problem-solving approaches to learning.

Schools and districts will soon have another opportunity to apply for Standards Implementation Grants. To learn more about them and find out how to develop a proposal and complete the application for next year's grants, NJ SSI's Regional Centers are offering the following Technical Assistance sessions at their sites. Please note the locations, dates and times. Those who are unable to attend the session in their Region may attend a meeting at another Regional Center. Grant proposals will be due on **February 28, 2005.**

NJ SSI REGIONAL CENTERS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SESSIONS FOR 2005-2006 GRANTS

County College of Morris
 Essex, Morris, Passaic, Sussex, and Warren Counties
 January 20, 2005, LRC #115
 9:30 am – 11:30 am
 Patricia Rokosz/Daniel Jazwinski
 (973) 328-5378 or trokosz@ccm.edu;
 dajjr@worldnet.att.net
 www.ccm.edu/cpp/ssi

Montclair State University
 Bergen, Essex, Hudson, and Passaic Counties
 December 15, 2004, Sokol Room,
 9:00 am – 10:00 am
 Jacalyn Willis/Anna Mazzaro
 (973) 655-7753 or willisj@mail.montclair.edu;
 mazzaroa@mail.montclair.edu
 www.csam.montclair.edu/ceterms/

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NJ SSI UPDATE

FOR TWELVE CONTINUOUS YEARS, NJ SSI HAS EFFECTIVELY HELPED SCHOOL DISTRICTS IMPLEMENT STANDARDS-BASED CURRICULA. NJ SSI WILL CONTINUE TO OFFER THE EXCITING PROGRAMS IT HAS BECOME KNOWN FOR, LIKE THE NJ SSI PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM.

In 2005-06, the NJ SSI Regional Centers will begin Cohort 6 of the **Partnership Program for Excellence in Mathematics, Science, and Technology.** We invite teachers and administrators from schools and districts throughout New Jersey to learn about the Program and how to register for the 2005-06 academic year. For more information, contact your local Regional Center.

In January 2005, NJ SSI will add a new Mathematics Program, **Dynamic Classroom Assessment (DCA).** DCA is a professional development program designed to help mathematics teachers accurately assess what their students know and can do. DCA offers 30 hours of professional development for grades 6-12 teachers, teachers preparing for leadership roles, and district-level mathematics supervisors of mathematics on formative assessment. Participants will explore strategies for gathering information on what students actually know and are thinking about in mathematics. DCA techniques and strategies can then be used to make instructional decisions that are more closely aligned with the needs of students. DCA activities will be held in January and February at the locations and on the dates listed in the Calendar of Events on page 4.

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NEW CURRICULUM PROGRAMS AT THE COLUMBUS SCHOOL

Located in Trenton, the Columbus Elementary School is home to 220 students, ranging from pre-K to eighth grade. Two years ago, Lynn Robinson, the School's Principal, and several teachers partnered with NJ SSI and with Dr. Robert Weber and Dr. Cathy Liebars from The College of New Jersey (TCNJ) to improve the school's mathematics curriculum. Their goal was to help improve students' test scores. The School has been participating in the Math and Science Urban Initiative, a project co-funded by NJ SSI and Research for Better Schools, Inc. (RBS) in collaboration with TCNJ.

After visiting urban schools in other areas to study their mathematics curricula, Ms. Robinson and the teachers, Mr. Bocary Bandeh, Ms. Suzanne Martin, and Ms. Cynthia Price, met with Drs. Weber and Liebars to review and select two new Programs: *Investigations in Number, Data & Space for grades K-5* (see <http://investigations.terc.edu/>) and *Connected Mathematics for Grades 6-8* (see <http://www.phschool.com/math/cmp/>). Both programs being implemented are



**COLUMBUS SCHOOL
6TH GRADERS WORK
WITH POLYSTRIPS TO
DISCOVER THE PROPERTIES
OF TRIANGLES.**

aligned with the New Jersey Mathematics Standards and are research-based and age appropriate. Each help students develop an understanding of important concepts, skills, procedures, and ways of thinking and reasoning. The teachers, the students, and the Principal are pleased with the results.

"If students are engaged, they not only learn but they help others to learn as well." said Ms. Robinson. "Students are not passive learners. Hands-on learning and building models to understand concepts help them get to the right answer. The process is just as important as the answer."

NJ SSI AWARDS DISTRICT GRANTS (continued from page 1)

Rowan University

Atlantic, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Ocean, and Salem Counties
January 7, 2005, Bosshart 222,
9:00 – 11:00 a.m.
Janet Caldwell/John Faubl/Ellen Rothschild
(856) 256-4827 or
caldwell@rowan.edu; jfsamp@aol.com;
rothschild@rowan.edu
www.rowan.edu/elan/mcsiip

Rutgers University

Middlesex, Monmouth, and Union Counties
January 18, 2005, Graduate Student Lounge,
Busch Campus Student Center
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
Emily Dann/Kathleen Ferris
(732) 932-7496 x 8262/8156 or
dann@rci.rutgers.edu; kferris@rci.rutgers.edu
www.rbdil.gse.rutgers.edu/regional.html

The College of New Jersey

Burlington, Hunterdon, Mercer,
and Somerset Counties
January 12, 2005, Armstrong Hall Room 103,
1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Ken Maskell/Sharon Sherman
(609) 771-3332/2964
maskell@tcnj.edu/shermans@tcnj.edu
<http://www.tcnj.edu/~njssi>

ESTEEMS PROJECT

In August 2004, the New Jersey Department of Education awarded NJ SSI with a grant to develop a middle school partnership program that will increase content knowledge and related classroom skills of in-service regular and special education teachers of mathematics and science, and in particular, to assist them in meeting the standards for Highly Qualified Teacher (HQT). This new program – Establishing Excellence in Education for Mathematics and Science or ESTEEMS – will provide standards-based, content-related professional development in mathematics and science for regular



and special education middle school classroom teachers.

NJ SSI will conduct two, two-week Content Institutes, one in mathematics, with an emphasis on geometry and measurement, and one in science, with an emphasis on physical science, for a total of 60 middle school teachers grades 5-8 in summer 2005. This program will unite Rutgers University, Middlesex County College, and Salem Community College, 15 school districts, and five non-public schools.

“NJ SSI has played an important role in the development and implementation of

standards-based professional development in mathematics and science in New Jersey,” says Beth Ebler, New Jersey Department of Education. “They were the natural choice to effectively lead this program in central New Jersey,” she added.

Before the Institutes begin, NJ SSI staff will meet with prospective participants to observe their classes, discuss their needs and execute a customized professional development contract for each teacher. Following the Institutes, there will be three follow-up days where the staff will help participants attain the goals of their contracts and assist teachers with content and content-related pedagogy.

During the following school year, NJ SSI will offer ESTEEMS participants the opportunity to take two key Annenberg/CPB Channel Workshops, facilitated by the videoconferencing capabilities of the

Rutgers Center for Mathematics, Science and Computer Education (CMSCE). Typically, teachers take Annenberg/CPB Channel Workshops in groups, gather to view video programs and then discuss what they have seen with a facilitator. Discussion groups will use video conferencing technology, and each course will have its own online learning community to facilitate on-going communication about content and pedagogy. Online learning communities will enable participants to seek expert content-related advice from university faculty or their peers and exchange information about content and teaching strategies.

NEWS FROM THE NJDOE

In September, the New Jersey Department of Education released a summary of the High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA) results of the students who participated in the summer learning pilot program. The program is part of the Department's efforts to seek positive alternatives to the Special Review Assessment (SRA), the current alternative method of earning a diploma in New Jersey.

The pilot program offered approximately 250 soon-to-be-seniors who had failed to achieve proficiency on one or both parts of the HSPA in March the opportunity to receive five weeks of intensive tutoring, followed by a re-test in August. The summer institutes were held in Englewood, Vineland, Jersey City, Franklin Township (Somerset) and Hillside. Commissioner of Education William L. Librera, along with other DOE officials, conceived of and developed the pilot program.

From one point of view, the summer institute test results were encouraging: more students will be graduating from high school next June after passing the HSPA as a result of this program. From another point of view, however, the pilot results should send a strong message to school districts. Of the 215 students who took the mathematics portion of the test, only 35.8 percent achieved proficiency when they took the mathematics portion of the HSPA at the end of the five-week pilot. For over 60% of the students, last-minute test preparation was simply not sufficient. There is no doubt that, particularly in mathematics, maintaining quality instruction throughout the entire K-12 learning experience is likely to be much more productive than senior-year efforts to catch up.

NEWS FROM THE NJDOE

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY

- 1/5-** Workshop for Science Teachers (7-12)
1/6 CMSCE, Rutgers University
- 1/6** CPO Science Foundations of Physics (9-12)
Rowan University
- 1/12** CPO Foundations of Physical Science (9-12)
County College of Morris
- 1/12-** Workshop for Science Teachers (7-12)
1/13 CMSCE, Rutgers University
- 1/12,** Mathematics Test Prep – HSPA
1/19 Rutgers University
- 1/13** Dynamic Classroom Assessment Administrators and Teachers of Mathematics (6-12)
Rowan University

- 1/13-** Mathematics Test Prep for NJASK 3 and NJASK 4
1/14 CMSCE, Rutgers University
- 1/20** Premier Science (6-8)
County College of Morris
- Dynamic Classroom Assessment Administrators and Teachers of Mathematics (6-12)
Rutgers University
- 1/21** Dynamic Classroom Assessment Administrators and Teachers of Mathematics (6-12)
Montclair State University
- 1/25-** The Rainforest Connection
1/29 Montclair State University
- 1/26** Preparing Students for Technology Standard Testing
The College of New Jersey
- 1/26,** Mathematics Test Prep – GEPA
2/9 CMSCE, Rutgers University

- 2/4** A Partnership for Learning
New Jersey Marine Sciences Consortium
- 2/7-** RBS Regional Conference – “Improving Mathematics and Science Achievement: Resources to Help All Students Reach High Standards of Performance”
2/9 Adams Mark Hotel, Philadelphia, PA
- 2/8,** Understanding and Using Differentiated Instruction with Technology (K-8)
2/24 CMSCE, Rutgers University
- 2/9** Family ASTRO Training
Raritan Valley Community College
- 2/10,** Fables, Fairy Tales, and Engineering (K-3)
2/17 CMSCE, Rutgers University
- 2/15** Inspiration in Math and Science Class (3-8)
CMSCE, Rutgers University
- 2/16,** Mathematics Test Prep – Grades 5-6
2/23 CMSCE, Rutgers University
- 2/22** Technology Integration in Math and Science Education (TIMSE) (K-6)
CMSCE, Rutgers University
- 2/25** Our Solar Connection
Raritan Valley Community College

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE ON THE NJ SSI LIST SERV TO RECEIVE INFORMATION ABOUT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES, MATHEMATICS, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND EQUITY RESOURCES PLEASE SEND AN E-MAIL WITH YOUR REQUEST TO treale@rci.rutgers.edu.

FEBRUARY

- 2/3** State Testing Workshop on NJ-ASK and GEPA
Montclair State University
- CPO Science Foundation of Physical Science (7-12)
Rowan University
- 2/2-** Special Education Series: Technology and Learning for All Children (K-12)
2/3,
2/28 CMSCE, Rutgers University

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



Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
640 Bartholomew Rd.
Piscataway, NJ 08854-8003

Tel 732-445-2241
Fax 732-445-2848
<http://njssi.rutgers.edu>