ALABAMA COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION
No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB)
P.L. 107-110, Title II, Part A/Subpart 3
Professional Development Program
IMPROVING TEACHER QUALITY: MASTERY OF CONTENT

PROJECT DIRECTORY
Fiscal Year 2004-05
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Under authority of Public Law 107-110, the Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE) is awarding a total of $1,211,943 Fiscal Year 2004-2005* federal funds for K-12 teacher professional development. Of that amount, $1,033,443 is awarded to continue long-term projects that received FY2003-2004 professional development grants; $178,500 is awarded to two new projects in this program. Six public universities and one private university received these grants to support partnerships between universities and high-need school districts. Some projects also include partnerships with non-profit agencies and businesses. All are designed to provide long-term, statewide professional development to improve teaching in Alabama public and private schools. A major objective is to achieve high State content and student performance standards, with emphasis on serving high need local school districts.

In these projects, K-12 teachers receive individual hands-on training in the most current technology and proven learning strategies. Projects also include follow-up sessions and technical assistance during the academic year after summer workshops to refresh, reinforce, and re-establish principles and techniques learned. The follow-up occurs in different ways for different projects but usually includes one-day workshops during the school year and on-site observation/assistance visits to teachers in their schools. In addition, projects typically maintain continuing communication by e-mail, print material, and internet websites.

Expenses for administering these projects and for providing project materials are covered by the ACHE NCLB program along with support from the host institutions, private corporations, and government agencies. One ACHE NCLB grant supports teachers’ independent research, including study abroad. Travel and related expenses for teachers participating in other projects are provided by sources other than ACHE NCLB funds.

Information on the objectives, schedules, and activities of these projects may be obtained from the project directors listed in this directory. For information on the administration of the higher education NCLB Program in Alabama, contact Dr. Elizabeth French at (334) 242 2179 [efrench@ache.state.al.us] or Dr. James Conely at (334) 242 2235 [jconely@ache.state.al.us] in the Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Planning at ACHE, P. O. Box 302000, Montgomery, Alabama, 36130-2000. The Project Directory and additional information on this program is also available online at http://www.ache.state.al.us under “Departmental Pages”: “No Child Left Behind – Title II.”

*Projects with FY 2004-05 funding include professional development from spring 2005 through spring 2006.
Jacksonville State University

EMCAT: Exploring Mathematical Concepts Through Application of Technology

Partners: College of Arts and Sciences
          College of Education and Professional Studies
          Public School Systems: Calhoun County; Cleburne County;
          Jacksonville City; Oxford City; Piedmont City; Talladega
          City; Talladega County

Designed for in-service teachers, the goal of this project is to increase secondary mathematics teachers’ content and pedagogical knowledge aimed toward improving their students’ achievement. Specific EMCAT objectives include increasing teachers’ (1) understanding of mathematical concepts, (2) awareness of applications of mathematics, (3) ability to use technology to enhance student learning, and (4) competence in using a variety of teaching strategies. These objectives are achieved in workshops and continuous collaboration with colleagues and instructors. The EMCAT project recognizes that not all students have a strong disposition toward mathematics and strives to aid teachers in developing instructional strategies that will encourage the learning and appreciation of mathematics by all students.

Project Director: Dr. Delisa Dismukes

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         Jacksonville State University
         700 Pelham Road North
         Jacksonville, AL 36265

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           (256) 782-5445

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E-mail: dismukes@jsu.edu
2005 Workshop Dates:  
June 27 – July 1

Location:  
Jacksonville State University

Followup Dates:

October, November, February (dates to be announced)

March through May: visits to teachers in their schools
IMPACTSEED III: Improving Physics and Chemistry Teaching in Secondary Education

Partners: College of Arts & Sciences
         College of Education and Professional Studies
         Public School Systems: Anniston City; Attalla City; Blount County;
         Calhoun County; Cherokee County; Cleburne County;
         Etowah County; Gadsden City; Jacksonville City; Oxford City;
         Pell City; Piedmont City; Randolph County; Roanoke City; St.
         Clair County; Talladega City; Talladega County
         Private School: The Donoho School

IMPACTSEED III addresses two pressing local problems: (a) about 83% of chemistry teachers and 94% of physics teachers are teaching out of field; (b) regional student achievement in physical sciences is much lower than the state average. To resolve these problems, the project helps teachers to make physics and chemistry understandable and fun to learn within a hands-on, inquiry-oriented setting, and also to overcome the fear-factor for these subjects among students and teachers alike. Five components comprise the project: (1) an intensive two-week summer professional development program; (2) five technology workshops during the academic year; (3) sustained, year-round on-site support to the teachers; (4) year-round physics and chemistry hotlines to offer immediate support to the teachers when needed; (5) a website to disseminate the results of the project and to list useful resources. IMPACTSEED offers hands-on, inquiry-based instruction with a strong correlation to the Alabama Course of Study and national standards with primary emphasis on having students discover rather than memorize and with teachers questioning rather than telling.

Project Director: Dr. Nouredine Zettili, Professor

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         Jacksonville State University
         700 Pelham Road North
         Jacksonville, AL 36265

Telephone: (256) 782 8077

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Internet:  http://www.jsu.edu/depart/pes/physics/impactseed/

2005 Institute Date:  Location:
June 6-17  Jacksonville State University

Followup Dates:
Five school-year Saturdays TBA
Extended Communities of Practice: Mastery of Science Education through Leadership

Now in its third year, the Extended Communities of Practice: Mastery of Science Education through Leadership (MSEL) is focused on increasing professional knowledge and student achievement in science. Based on Formative Leadership Theory, MSEL methods include institutes and workshops, faculty study groups, coaching and mentoring, and training in (1) using data to drive decision making; (2) integration of technology; (3) life science curricula; and (4) leadership development. This year expands to include three cohorts of teacher leaders engaged in developing and delivering new strategies for teaching and learning science. Also new this year is working with principals and district administrators to sustain the project’s goals to transform elementary school science teaching, improve student achievement in science, and create teacher leaders who change their own teaching practices and learning environments.

Project Director: Dr. Deborah Childs-Bowen

Address: Institute for Teaching and Student Achievement
OBB School of Education and Professional Studies
Samford University
800 Lakeshore Drive
Birmingham, AL 35229

Telephone: (205) 726 4256

E-mail: dccbld@samford.edu
2005 Institute Dates:  
June 13-17

Location: 
Samford University

Follow-up Dates: 
Monthly meetings held the 2nd and 3rd Wednesdays throughout the school year. Dates are subject to change.
Troy University
and
Alabama Humanities Foundation

Grand Tour IV: Language through Culture

Partners: College of Arts and Sciences
College of Education
Public School System: Troy City

Intensive language study is jointly administered with the Alabama Humanities Foundation’s “SUPER” program: School and University Partners for Educational Renewal. A one-week residential institute provides foreign language immersion and content-based professional enrichment for all Alabama K-12 teachers and pre-service teachers of French, German, Latin, and Spanish. Groundwork is laid for two follow-up residential weekend workshops and additional one-day workshop opportunities, individual consultations, evaluations, and a lesson-plan resource notebook and CD. The primary objective is to reach Alabama’s under-served foreign language teachers and provide resources to enhance their teaching and ultimately their students’ learning opportunities. In each phase, participants explore connections within their target language of culture, history, language, and its speakers. This program integrates the Alabama Course of Study’s five target areas: communication, cultures, connections, comparisons, and communities.

Project Director: Dr. Peter Howard, Professor of Classics and Chair
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131 Malone Hall
Troy University
Troy, AL 36082

Associate Director: Mr. Tom Bryant, SUPER Coordinator
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2005 Institute Date: Location:
July 10-16  Troy University

Followup Dates:
TBA - To be determined with participants in the July 2005 institute.
Troy University Dothan
Wiregrass Math and Science Consortium

Partners: College of Education
          College of Arts and Science
          PAIGE (Partnership Assistance in Growing Educators)
          Public School Systems: Barbour County; Dothan City; Henry County; Houston County; Ozark City
          Private School: Abbeville Christian Academy
          Non-Profit Agencies: Wiregrass Museum of Art; Forestry Foundation; Dothan Regional Airport; National High Magnetic Field Laboratory

The Wiregrass Math and Science Consortium promotes inquiry-based math and science instruction highlighting the application of technology. Language Arts/Writing and cross-curricular cultural enrichment strategies are presented to demonstrate the need for integrating all content areas. Aerospace activities are included to promote student interest in such fields as engineering and technology. The Consortium supports a Teacher's Assistance Center on the TSUD campus, a “Communication Station” page on the Consortium’s webpage, and “teacher partnership” activities facilitate the development of professional learning communities. School administrators are involved in an Educational Leadership Forum focusing on skills needed to initiate positive change. Special emphasis is placed on serving teachers from high-need school districts.

Project Director: Ms. Christina Johnson

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          Troy University Dothan
          P. O. Box 8368
          Dothan, AL 36304

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2005 Institute Date:  Location:
June-July 2005 (dates TBA)  Troy University Dothan

Followup Dates:
November, 2005; February, 2006; March, 2006
ALAHSAP is an inquiry-centered, hands-on elementary science education program providing professional development aligned with state and national standards for researched-based classroom materials, leadership development, and consultation services to system administrators. Since 1995 the project has served over 6,800 K-6 teachers in 44 school systems. In 2005-2006 the project is providing ongoing support of science reform in schools served in the past year, conducting Leadership Institutes for teachers in partner systems, assisting all school system partners with long-range planning for continuing professional development of their teachers, and partnering with the UAB School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics for collaboration between Birmingham area elementary teachers and National Science Foundation Fellows in order to improve teacher and student science content knowledge.

Project Director: Dr. Joseph Burns, Associate Professor

Education Director: Ms. Joan Dawson
Program Manager: Ms. Beverly Radford

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Internet: http://www.uab.edu/alahasp

2005-2006 Workshops: View the ALAHASP website or call/e-mail the ALAHASP staff for current schedules.
This is a two-part program in molecular biology for high school biology teachers designed to improve excellence in science teaching by providing a high level of content, hands-on research, and instruction in inquiry-based teaching. BioTeach is a four-week lecture and laboratory summer course including at least two meetings during the academic year with BioTeach teachers to assess their progress and provide support for teaching hands-on biology courses. The project also includes field trips and classroom implementation programs designed especially for BioTeach teachers.

Project Directors: Dr. Mary Williams

Address: Center for Community OutReach Development
University of Alabama at Birmingham
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2005 Institute Dates: July 5-29

Followup Dates:
November 12, 2005 (10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.)
April 11, 2006 (10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.)
Project staff assistance visits to teachers in their classrooms: TBA

Location: University of Alabama at Birmingham and McWane Center
STAR provides one or two meritorious Alabama K-12 teachers in a “high need” school with an opportunity for independent research and study in the subjects they teach to increase their expertise and effectiveness. The partnership includes representatives from all fields of teaching and research at UAH under the guidance of the UAH Office of International Programs (OIP) and a high-need school district. This district identifies teachers from its schools who meet minimal criteria of excellence and invites them to apply for scholarships of up to $3,000 each. Then if space is available, applications from teachers in all other Alabama districts are accepted. The nature of the study is varied with preference for well planned individual research projects in foreign countries. All study programs include professional mentoring and follow-up.

Project Director: Dr. John R. Pottenger, Director

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University of Alabama in Huntsville
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2005-2006 Independent Study Dates and Locations: [varies by teacher and study program]

Followup: March 2006 [Date TBA]
Teaching the Future: Mastery of Science and Mathematics through Space Exploration

Partners: UAH Continuing Education  
UAH Department of Education  
UAH Institute for Science Education  
Public School Systems: Baldwin County; Perry County

Teaching the Future is a space science education project to help Alabama teachers meet the objectives of the Alabama Courses of Study in science and mathematics, correlated with the Stanford 9 Achievement Test. The project introduces important historical, theoretical, and practical implications of space exploration for teaching science and mathematics and to provide on-site, first-hand exposure to certain research and operational space facilities. Workshops provide hands-on experiences for classroom implementation of relevant concepts, constructivist pedagogies, and teaching materials. Working with the project are other high-tech and science education agencies, including the University of California-Irvine office in Huntsville, NASA’s Marshall Space Flight Center, and the U. S. Space & Rocket Center.

Project Director: Dr. John R. Pottenger, Director

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Division of Continuing Education  
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2005 Summer Workshops:
June 6-11        July 18-23
June 13-18
June 20-25

Follow-up:
Spring, 2006 (dates TBA)

Locations:
University of Alabama in Huntsville;
The U. S. Space & Rocket Center
The Alabama Institute for Education in the Arts (AIEA) is a statewide agency whose sole mission is providing intensive, quality professional development training in comprehensive arts education to teachers and administrators in Alabama’s schools. AIEA has three distinct training sessions in addition to providing site visits, mentoring, SuperSaturday training days throughout the year, professional development workshops for schools, working with higher education faculties, and providing workshop opportunities through the Regional Inservice Centers. The Summer Institute, held for seven days in Montgomery, trains teachers in music, theatre, visual art, and dance, as well as hosting an Administrator’s Leadership track. Arts in Education, held at the University of South Alabama, provides six days of sequential training across the arts disciplines throughout the academic year. The new Multi-Arts Integration Workshop is planned for July in Montgomery. Teachers who have been trained in either of AIEA’s intensive workshops or who are arts specialists will work on arts integration and curriculum design.

Project Director:  Ms. Martha Lockett, Executive Director, AIEA

Co-Director:  Dr. Jeannette Fresne, Assistant Professor, University of South Alabama
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2005-2006 Institute Dates: 
Summer Institute 2005  
June 12-18, 2005

Multi-Arts Integration and Curriculum Design  
July 24-26, 2005

Arts in Education (AiE) Workshops  
September 2005—April 2006

SuperSaturday (tentative)  
December, 2005; April 2006

Mentorship  
September-April

Site Visits  
December, 2005 – March, 2006

Locations: 
Montgomery, Alabama

Montgomery, Alabama

Mobile/Baldwin County, Alabama

Montgomery/Other locations

Teacher’s Classrooms

Teacher's Classrooms