



Best Practices in Science Teaching *a course from the VERMONT SCIENCE INITIATIVE*

Dates and Times:

Weekday sessions, 2.5 hours, afternoons, exact times to be determined

Saturday sessions, 9am – 2pm

2009

Wednesday, Oct. 14

Wednesday, Oct 21

Wednesday, November 4

Wednesday, November 11

Wednesday, December 16

2010

Saturday, January 9

Tuesday, January 19

Wednesday, February 3

Saturday, March 6

Friday, March 12

Saturday, April 3

Location: Wilmington, VT (site to be determined)

Overall Program Description:

The Vermont Science Initiative (VSI) works to achieve scientific literacy among all of our children through improved instruction in science. To achieve this goal, the VSI offers the “Tier II” program, a 4-credit, one-year professional development program starting in the Fall of 2009, focusing on science content, acquiring science-teaching skills, and improving general teaching practice.

The VSI Tier II program will be offered through the Southeast Vermont Learning Collaborative.

First course of the two-course program begins Fall, 2009. Second course, on core science content, will be offered in Summer 2010.

•Teachers who successfully complete both the content and the pedagogy courses will receive a stipend of \$250 from the VSI program at Johnson State College.

First course:

Best Practices in Science Teaching, K-8

In this school year course, we will engage in science inquiry as adult learners in order to become comfortable and confident with inquiry-based science instruction and to plan for it in our instruction. Armed with this understanding participants will examine and refine a science unit of your choice using the Vermont Grade Expectations for Science, backwards design, Curriculum Topic Study, and other resources to support a well thought out science unit complete with ideas for assessment and inquiry-based learning activities. The use of the book *Primary Science, Taking the Plunge* by Wynne Harlen, access to many other wonderful science resources, and an opportunity to work with other K-8 teachers will help make this a valuable experience.

Course Outcomes:

- Development of inquiry teaching and assessment skills and strategies to help students understand and use the concepts of science at their grade level
- Experience with engaging in a cycle of inquiry as adult learners in order to understand how students experience inquiry and how to apply the VT inquiry GE's to instruction
- Development of science unit frameworks including desired outcomes, performance tasks and formative assessment strategies, and learning opportunities for students that feature inquiry
- Awareness and practice of strategies that meet both science and literacy goals for students

This is a two graduate credit course through Johnson State College. There is no non-credit option.

Fee: Including two graduate credits is \$790, payable to Southeast Vermont Learning Collaborative

Registration: Initial registration is online at www.LearningCollaborative.org

Instructor: Meredith Wade, MST, is Co-Director of Synergy Learning and an experienced elementary teacher. She has served on the education staff of the Museum of Science (Boston) and the Vermont Elementary Science Project (Burlington). She is the author of several articles on science education and has written curriculum for two National Science Foundation funded projects as well as the public television series, ZOOM and for Delta Science Modules.

The second course (also two credits) will be offered in Summer 2009 in an intensive, weeklong format. This course will focus on core science content. There will be an additional fee for the second course. Participants completing both courses will receive a stipend of \$250.00

MORE INFORMATION WILL BE POSTED SOON AT:
www.LearningCollaborative.org

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The Collaborative, a non-profit corporation, provides professional development services throughout southeastern Vermont.