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Science Notes - Summer Workshops at Harvard University

Summer Workshops at Harvard University

The Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics in Cambridge, Massachusetts, has announced the availability of two teacher workshops for the summer of 1991. Both workshops are continuations of ongoing projects designed to build teacher-agent networks to increase the use of activity-based science teaching across the United States.

Project ESTEEM (Earth Science Teachers Exploring Exemplary Materials) will run July 1-19. This program is supported by both the Center for Astrophysics and Harvard's Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences. ESTEEM selects teachers from grades 6-12 who are currently teaching earth science. Participants examine and evaluate existing "hands-on" earth science activities, hear a series of lectures on topics in earth science and science education and take a number of local field trips (including visits to the Peabody Museum, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and the Oak Ridge Astronomical Observatory as well as a local geological field trip).

Project SPICA (Support Program for Instructional Competency in Astronomy) will run July 29 through August 16. This program selects teachers from grades K-12 who have an interest in astronomy teaching. Participants examine and evaluate existing astronomy education materials, listen to a series of lectures on current events in astronomy and science education and complete practical projects in astronomy.

Participants in both programs make extensive use of Macintosh computers for word processing, manipulating data files and producing graphics. Considerable group interaction takes place, and participants are expected to present their own teaching ideas. Following the completion of the summer program, ESTEEM and SPICA agents are expected to conduct workshops in their own districts, states and regions.

Selection criteria for both programs includes the following: evidence of professional involvement, experience working with other teachers, basic knowledge of relevant science and extent of support from the participant's local school. Experience working with Apple or Macintosh computers is helpful, and some selections will be based on the need to have as wide a geographic distribution as is possible in each program. Successful applicants will receive a maximum of $300 to support travel costs, room and board and a stipend of $900 for each program.

To date, both programs have been very successful in providing the services of master teachers for peer teaching. In the first 16 months of operation, Project SPICA agents have conducted 131 workshops in 28 states and have served over 4500 teachers. In the first four months of operation, Project ESTEEM agents have already conducted 25 workshops in 14 states.

For more information about the programs or to locate the ESTEEM or SPICA agent for your area, contact Dr. Darrell Hoff, Center for Astrophysics, 60 Garden Street, Cambridge, MA 02138; ph. (617) 495-9798; Bitnet address: dhoff@cfa. Iowa teachers may contact Professor D. Louis Finsand, SPICA Agent, Price Laboratory School, University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, IA 50613, ph. (319) 273-2414.

Molecular Biology Enrichment for Youth Program

Iowa State University, in cooperation with the National Science Foundation and Eli Lilly and Company, is again sponsoring the Molecular Biology Enrichment for Youth program (MBEY).

Students entering eighth or ninth grade are eligible for the program. Applicants should have high ability or high potential in science. The program assumes strong applicant interest in science and will be an "intense" experience. Women, minority and handicapped students are encouraged to apply.

Participants in MBEY learn the latest techniques using state-of-the-art instrumentation. Lectures provide the necessary background for lab activities and each participant designs an independent research project and carries out initial experiments during the final week of the program.

MBEY runs Sunday, June 16, through Saturday, July 13. Grants from the National Science Foundation and Eli Lilly and Company cover all tuition costs. Participants pay only room and board (a total of $500). Need-based financial aid is available to cover room and board costs. In addition, a limited number of travel grants will be offered.

For more information, contact the Molecular Biology Enrichment for Youth Program, Biochemistry and Biophysics, 397 Gilman Hall, Iowa State University, Ames, IA 50011, ph. (515) 294-7713. The deadline for applications is May 3, 1991.

Science Leadership Institute

The National Science Supervisors Association is sponsoring a one-week institute for Science Leadership at Southern Illinois University's Edwardsville Campus from July 28 to August 2.

Topics to be covered during the institute include business partnerships, writing grant proposals, teacher evaluation methods, "Project 2061," research and the science supervisor, networking through NSSA, science facilities and a high-tech update.

The fee for the institute is $250 (including accommodations and meals). The fee may be reduced based on the degree of outside support received. For more information or application forms, contact Natalie Tieman, Warren Township High School, 500 North O'Plaine Road, Gurnee, IL 60031.