Doctoral Dissertation Research Awards Broadened

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.uni.edu/istj

Part of the Science and Mathematics Education Commons

Let us know how access to this document benefits you

Recommended Citation
Available at: https://scholarworks.uni.edu/istj/vol8/iss3/13

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Iowa Academy of Science at UNI ScholarWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in Iowa Science Teachers Journal by an authorized editor of UNI ScholarWorks. For more information, please contact scholarworks@uni.edu.
that students may experience science rather than just learn about science, limited amounts of required reading materials, and placed the teacher in a less authoritarian role in the classroom.

The programs that are designed to most nearly accomplish these objectives and that are now commercially available are:

- Elementary Science Study—ESS
- Science a Process Approach—AAAS
- Science Curriculum Improvement Study—SCIS

These programs all vary in the emphasis placed on the factors previously discussed, thus meeting the needs of a variety of philosophical backgrounds and locally adopted objectives. The best program being that one that most nearly fits the needs, interests, and desires of the teachers and students within a given school or system.

This is not to imply that other materials and programs can not supply meaningful science experiences, only that the programs mentioned seem to best achieve the objectives and ideals of elementary science education that I have proposed. Certainly no matter what program or material is provided, its success or failure is dependant upon one major factor—the classroom teacher!

Doctoral Dissertation Research Awards Broadened

Dr. William D. McElroy, Director of the National Science Foundation, has authorized the broadened use of doctoral dissertation research awards to include the environmental sciences (atmospheric and earth sciences and oceanography) and the biological field sciences such as ecology, systematics, and biological oceanography.

For some time the Foundation has awarded grants for doctoral dissertation research in the social sciences. Because of the success of these awards, the Foundation is broadening their use to include, in addition to the social sciences, the field sciences listed above.

Doctoral dissertation research awards are intended to improve the scientific quality of dissertations by making it possible for the student to gather more data of better quality. In particular, the grants permit students to conduct field trips and surveys appropriate to the dissertation topic. These awards can often make the difference between first-class and second-class approaches to dissertation research on topics that require a high degree of independence on the part of the doctoral candidate.

A leaflet setting forth application procedures may be obtained from the appropriate NSF division: Division of Biological and Medical Sciences; Division of Environmental Sciences; or Division of Social Sciences, National Science Foundation, Washington, D.C. 20550.