



Portland State University awarded \$1 million for elementary teacher science program

December 10, 2014, Portland, OR. Portland State University has received a 3-year \$1 million grant from the Oregon Department of Education to deliver an innovative elementary teacher professional development program in science. The award entitled “Expansion of K-6 NGSS Instructional Specialists Program” was made from Oregon’s federally funded Title IIB Math Science Partnership Program. The project will operate out of the Portland Metro STEM Partnership (PMSP), one of Oregon’s six regional science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) hubs. Seventy elementary teachers will be trained to serve as instructional specialists during the implementation of Oregon’s Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). It will also provide science content instruction to over 300 elementary teachers statewide.

“We are excited to have the resources to scale-up PMSP’s successful model for elementary teacher professional development. This project underscores the importance of effective science instruction to help ALL students become successful science learners.” William Becker, Executive Director of the PMSP and the project’s Principal Investigator

Through this project, the PMPS will increase teacher effectiveness and student achievement in science as measured by Oregon’s statewide student assessment data, teacher content assessments, and classroom instruction measures from the PMSP Common Measurement System. Project participants will also report student achievement of the NGSS performance expectations through classroom formative assessments.

The PMSP will engage Dr. Okhee Lee from New York University (the NGSS Equity and Diversity Team Leader), science faculty from PSU and K-12 partners from Hillsboro, Portland, Beaverton, Forest Grove, east Multnomah County, the Oregon Coast STEM Hub and the South Metro-Salem STEM Partnership. This project has intentional ties to the Oregon Educational Investment Board (OEIB) Equity Lens by modeling culturally responsive instructional practices during all of the project’s professional development courses, workshops and seminars. Training will also be provided on instructional practices that address the needs of English Language Learners.

“We envision the instructional specialists that are trained through this grant to serve as change agents in their schools and districts and to be leaders in supporting the adoption of Oregon’s new science standards” Carol Biskupic Knight, PMSP Teacher Academy Director, co-principal investigator and Beaverton School District Elementary Curriculum Specialist

About Portland Metro STEM Partnership:

The PMSP is an Oregon Regional STEM Hub. Key stakeholder groups from K-12 schools districts, higher education, industry, and community-based STEM program providers form the PMSP to address critical issues involving Oregon’s need to improve STEM education, changing STEM workforce requirements, and the need to increase equitable access to STEM degree programs and careers. The mission of the PMSP is to create transformational learning environments in which all students acquire the identities of successful STEM learners.

You can find more from the PMSP website: www.pdxstem.org

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