Get Ready for Summer 2005 Invitational Institute!

Would you like to rekindle the joys of learning and teaching?
Would you like the opportunity to work with other area teachers as we find ways to address the toughest standards to teach for understanding?

Would you like to learn more about using questioning strategies to increase student involvement; check understanding of all students in your class; build mathematical connections between skills and concepts in the standards; and bridge the gaps in understanding for students requiring intervention?

At the 7th Annual CSUSMP Summer Invitational Institute you can have the opportunity to learn all of this...and more!

For 12 days over three weeks, you will be a learner of mathematics working in cooperative groups in a safe learning environment while being guided through questioning. You will increase your ability to reflect about teaching and learning as we practice looking for subtle interactions between teachers and students. You will learn the art of classroom observation and providing insightful, supportive feedback. You will go home with specific ideas about how to create safety in your classroom.

If any of the above intrigues you, the 7th Annual CSUSMP Invitational Institute is for you. Please apply. Apply by yourself or talk to your colleagues and start a pair or team from your school.

SAVE THE DATES: June 27-July 14, 2005, talk to your colleagues, and check our website for applications.

www.csus.edu/org/cusmp
Applications Available Soon!

Upcoming Events

February 5, 2005
Saturday Follow-Up Meeting
CSUS Mendocino Hall 3013
9:00 am - 2:30 pm

March 5, 2005
2005 SAME Conference
(Sacramento Area Math Educators)
in the CSUS Univ. Union
8:30 am - 1:30 pm
*See Insert in Newsletter

April 9, 2005
Saturday Follow-Up Meeting
CSUS Mendocino Hall 3013
9:00 am - 2:30 pm

Invitational Institute Summer 2005
June 27 – July 14, 2005
(*Applications will be available soon through our website.)

He who dares to teach must never cease to learn.
-Richard Henry Dann
Institute Testimonials...

Michael Delaney, 5th Grade Teacher from Amador County Unified:
“The method with which all these ideas are being presented is extremely helpful. Getting to see not one but three different approaches to this way of teaching math in a true classroom setting is much more effective than teaching theory as most seminars do.”

Carol Little, 5th Grade Teacher from Napa Valley Unified:
“I can say that for 12 days, I have observed incredible teaching. For 12 days, I have been immersed in wonderful learning. For 12 days, I have felt amazingly safe. My goal is to create this fantastic environment in my 5th grade class.”

Dave Decker, 5th Grade Teacher from Sacramento City Unified:
“The questioning strategies are simple and logical, yet so effective in engaging all students. These strategies also provide a comfortable and non-threatening climate for student responses...By far the most powerful component...was the consistent use of positive reinforcement and peer coaching...I feel confident that my students will benefit tremendously from these instructional techniques.”

Cindy Davis, from San Juan Unified:
“I learned that getting better with questioning really is something you just practice at. I learned there are small things you can focus on that will bring you better skills. I learned to listen, really listen to my peers.”

Join Us For Saturday Meetings!

What does a typical Saturday meeting look like? We begin each Saturday with an intriguing problem chosen because it can be used to access high levels of reasoning which is accessible to all, no matter when you had your last course in mathematics. Participants are challenged to be sure of what they know.

After the lesson, staff-observers will have a debriefing discussion with the instructors while the learners of the lesson (you participating teachers) are listening. In this way, participating teachers, after having just been learners, retrace the lesson from a teacher’s perspective, considering ways in which learners were involved, methods of questioning, and methods of pushing the understanding to a deeper level.

After the morning problem solving, we offer grade-level specific break-out sessions. We close the day with video observation. Observing a classroom teacher on video provides an opportunity to focus on the subtle interactions between the teacher and students in order to detect what is working effectively and why. At the end of the day, you will receive a letter detailing the number of professional growth hours you have earned. We recognize Saturday time is precious, but hope that you can join us. Come rekindle the learner in you and nourish the teacher in you.

Who can Attend?
ANYONE...former participants of our summer institutes, their guests, or anyone else reading this newsletter.

Does it cost anything?
No! (However, if an entire district attends, we may have to change this policy!)

How do I sign up? Since we will provide morning munchies and a light lunch, we do need to know how many people will be attending. Also, we try to tailor each Saturday to meet the grade-level needs of the attendees, so please RSVP to Abbey Feely, at (916) 278-4497 or afeely@csus.edu.

What is Lesson Study?
Lesson Study is a collaborative process that slows down the designing-teaching-evaluating cycle we all go through each day. A Lesson Study team works together to plan a lesson, teach and observe that lesson, collect evidence of student interactions with the lesson. It determines the effectiveness of the lesson design, and revises the lesson so that it can be taught again. Lesson study makes the art and craft of teaching visible, and provides a structure of collaborative professional development using a school’s own best resources—it’s teachers. Some schools in the greater Sacramento area are using Lesson Study. Debbie Stetson is facilitating a new lesson study team from Sam Brannon Middle School in the Sacramento City Unified School District.

If you would like more information about how to get lesson study started, or if you need someone to facilitate a lesson study group, please contact Debbie Stetson at (916) 278-5951 or at stetson@csus.edu.