Sacramento State and the Sacramento City Unified School District (SCUSD) have formed a partnership to ensure that laid-off teachers stay committed to the teaching profession during the recession.

The University and the school district have received a $300,000 grant from the SD Bechtel Jr. Foundation to help teachers earn teaching credentials in mathematics and science. Additional support for this project is coming from the Sacramento Employment Training Agency (SETA), the Workforce Investment Board (WIB) and the Math/Science Teacher Initiative of the California State University Chancellor's Office.

The grant will provide funding for coursework and classroom time for teachers before and after the regular school day. Courses will be conducted by Sacramento State's College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, College of Education, and College of Continuing Education.

The ongoing fiscal crisis has resulted in unprecedented teacher layoffs, which disproportionately affect new teachers. At the same time, the state and region continue to experience a shortage of mathematics and science teachers. The grant-funded program allows qualified teachers to continue to grow professionally and remain connected to their career choice. The project also positions SCUSD to sustain a pool of mathematics and science teachers, particularly in light of existing shortages and projected retirements in the next 10 years.
“This partnership will provide a roadmap back to the classroom for many of our excellent teachers who have been a victim of the devastating cuts to public education in the state of California,” said SCUSD Superintendent Jonathan Raymond. “We are thrilled to work with Sacramento State, Bechtel, SETA and the WIB on this incredibly valuable project.”

“All of these opportunities keep enthusiastic, innovative, newly credentialed teachers connected to teaching,” says Professor Pia Wong, who will coordinate the project at Sacramento State. “It really is a smart investment in our future.”

For media assistance, call Sacramento State’s Public Affairs office at (916) 278-6156.

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