

Dear K-12 Teachers of Science,

Through the generous support of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Bradley University is able to offer science teachers at every grade-level an extraordinary professional development opportunity. Project BEST (Building Excellent Scientists for Tomorrow) is a year-long program with multiple components that will allow you to build upon both your current knowledge of science and your skills as a science teacher. The program is an integrated suite of activities that will provide you with the following:

- (1) Enhanced science and math content knowledge aligned with national and state standards
- (2) Experiences with scientific investigation and problem-solving skills through integrated learning experiences in both classroom and research laboratory venues
- (3) Experiences with state-of-the art technologies in both classroom and research laboratory venues
- (4) Opportunities for you to become part of a growing cadre of leaders in science and technology education

To accomplish this you will participate in up to four interrelated, developmental activities:

Topics in Investigative Science for Educators

This is a lab-based course where you study a major scientific theme through the lens of two or more science disciplines. With a primary focus on active inquiry, science concepts and skills are developed as you design and complete investigations. The class will meet in the summer, M,T,W,Th and F afternoons from June 9-July 11, 2008. 3 hours of graduate credit*

Research Immersion Experience

This is a chance to be a part of an actual project in progress in a research science lab. You will spend 150-200 hours providing assistance to scientists as they work on their current project. Your responsibilities will be designed around your level of expertise. The immersion experience will be completed in the summer, with the hours distributed as best meet your schedule during a 10-week period, June 9-August 15, 2008.

1 hour of graduate credit*

\$2400-\$3200 stipend, depending on number of hours worked

Planning Inquiry-Based Science Curricula

In this part of the program you will design standards-based instruction that involves scientific inquiry. You will have an opportunity to teach this unit in the second half of your school year. This aspect of Project BEST will be completed during the fall on a schedule agreed upon by the current participants.

1 hour of graduate credit*

Action Research in Inquiry-Based Science

This culminating activity will allow you to do action research on the effects inquiry-based science instruction has on your students. The teaching of the unit designed in the Planning Inquiry-Based Science component of BEST will be your source of data. The parts of this component that require the group meeting as a whole will occur during January on a schedule agreed upon by the current participants.

1 hour of graduate credit*

\$400 for classroom materials

(* Approximately 67% of tuition cost is covered by Project BEST. The remainder may be covered through negotiated agreements with your district. This program qualifies for tuition reimbursement through PSD150.)

Research shows that for professional development to be effectual, there must be a well-planned, substantial experience. Project BEST offers that to you. We hope you are able to take advantage of this opportunity.

Visit the Bradley University Department webpage (www.bradley.edu/academics/las/bio/) for applications.

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