The Joan and James Leitzel Center for Mathematics, Science and Engineering Education

Students and faculty from UNH and Elizabeth City State University, NC at Mount Mousilauke, NH

The Mission

The Joan and James Leitzel Center for Mathematics, Science, and Engineering Education was established by an endowed gift to UNH in June 2002. The Center works to transform education in mathematics, science, and engineering at UNH, in elementary and secondary schools, and in informal settings through high quality research, carefully examined practice, and interdisciplinary collaboration.

Strategic Partnerships

The Center facilitates partnerships and initiates programs and activities with the goal of developing educators with thorough knowledge of science, mathematics, and engineering concepts and of human learning; developing learners who experience the joy of discovery and the challenge of understanding and developing learning environments that support active and rich intellectual engagement. Current partners include UNH faculty and staff, NH teachers and schools, NH Space Grant, Elizabeth City State University (NC), Pennsylvania State University (PA), and Dillard University (LA).

Selected Projects

Partnerships for Research Opportunities to Benefit Education (PROBE): Middle and high school teachers are paired with STEM graduate students to form teacher-scientist partnerships. Partners work to develop science and mathematics curriculum that engage students in exciting aspects of learning through inquiry and research. (Funded by NSF).

Watershed Watch: A model for recruitment of undeclared STEM majors by providing introductory level courses where students conduct their own research projects within the theme of watershed ecology. A collaborative effort with partners from Elizabeth City State University (NC), New Hampshire Community Technical College, and the College of the Albemarle (NC). (Funded by NSF).

Transforming Earth Systems Science Education: Professional development program for middle and high school earth science teachers that are under-prepared in the earth science content area. Combines earth science content and best-practices in science teaching, including actual research experiences. A collaboration with partners from Dillard University (LA), Elizabeth City State University (NC), and Pennsylvania State University. (Funded by NSF).

Future Goals

Future goals of the Leitzel Center include diversifying the funding portfolio, earning regional and national reputation through scholarship, research and outreach, and leading innovative research and outreach programs that focus on effective connections between research and education communities and attracting individuals from underrepresented groups into the STEM disciplines.

More info at: http://www.leitzelcenter.unh.edu

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