Mathematics and Science Education Center

MSEC Newsletter

Fall 2015

Mathematics Education Leadership Training (MELT) Program

Under the guidance of its Director, Michael Bossé, the 2015 MELT Program offered eleven week-long Summer Institutes that emphasized both the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics (CCSSM) and other applicable state standards (based on the employment state of various participants). These Institutes included: Math Ed Technology (6-12); Math 1, 2, and 3 of the CCSSM; Algebra and Functions (K-5 & 6-8); Geometry (K-5 & 6-8); Measurement & Statistics (K-5 & 6-8); and Building Mathematical Thinkers (7-12). One hundred twenty-one participants attended MELT institutes this summer. This was record high participation, with a significant number of teachers also coming from Virginia; this establishes even higher goals for next year. The MELT Program continues to give significant consideration to the political and educational movements within the state and the nation in order to best meet the needs of teachers.

In addition to the MELT Summer Institutes, MELT has successfully held fall and spring workshops to provide graduate coursework for students. MELT also hosts a wiki space for MELT participant resources. Currently, adding to email lists of administrators in NC and in five surrounding states, MELT is developing an email list with the goal of reaching nearly all individual mathematics teachers in the state of North Carolina and providing important program information to all. Thus, MELT is evolving in a number of dimensions to better meet the needs of K-12 teachers in the local and extended region.

MELT is now looking at participant evaluations, communicating with K-12 and university faculty, planning for this year’s meeting of its Board of Advisors, and communicating with school administrators in order to complete plans for next year’s offerings.

MELT wishes to capitalize on, and build upon, a number of successes: continually increasing participation in Summer Institutes and the number of Summer Institutes offered, the continued support and collaboration with the Mathematics and Science Education Center; student participation in workshops; and the increase in enthusiasm among faculty and participants. The Mathematics and Science Education Center looks forward to continuing its long collaboration with and support of MELT to help make the program the best that it can be.

Science and the Environment will be the topic for this year’s science seminars. All seminars are on Thursday nights except for one on Tuesday, October 20; there is a Thursday night football game that week and we do not want to contend with the football traffic. The seminars are open to everyone, are free, and offer license renewal credits (0.2 per seminar) to teachers. The fall seminars will be in room 124C in the new Reich College of Education Building from 6:00-8:00 p.m. with refreshments at 6:00. Parking on campus is free after 5:00 p.m. with the most convenient parking for the seminars being in the Library Parking Deck near the College of Education Building. The spring seminar is part of the North Carolina Science Festival that will take place during April 8-24, 2016. The spring seminar will be in the same building in room 124C and will also be on the same time schedule, 6:00-8:00 p.m. The schedule for the 2015-2016 series is:

- Oct. 1, 2015: Ray Williams (Biology), “Old Field Ecosystems and What They Can Tell Us about Biodiversity”
- Nov. 29, 2015: Chunshui Gu (Geology), “Impacts of Lawn Care on Climate Change”
- April 14, 2016: Rachel Wilson (Curriculum and Instruction), “Science Education and Environmental Literacy”
Print copies of the newsletter are distributed to math and science and some other departments on campus and are available at the MSEC for visitors and participants in center programs. You can always read both current and earlier newsletters at www.msec.appstate.edu, for updated information concerning our work. Program details of this conference are available on the North Carolina Association for Biomedical Research website, www.ncabr.org/.

The Reich College of Education is again hosting the Region 7 STEM Expo Day on the ASU campus will be held on Friday, April 22 during this year’s Festival. STEAM Expo Day with its large number of awesome science and math activities gets more popular each year and draws large crowds of excited participants. You are encouraged to get requests in early to Tracey Tardiff (tardiffta@appstate.edu) of the College Awareness Program, NC ACHIEVE (North Carolina Appalachian Collaborative for Higher Education) to attend STEAM Expo Day since space is limited. More information will be in the spring newsletter and on our website in the early spring. You may also get information by visiting www.ncsciencefestival.org.

For the last three summers, groups of twelve high school and college math or science teachers have engaged in research experiences with ASU faculty mentors and their graduate and undergraduate assistants to conduct research that will enable them to bring knowledge of computer science and technological innovation into their classrooms. The 36 teachers successfully completed several excellent research projects and developed a large number of course modules that are available for adoption at www.csci.appstate.edu/ret. We are indebted to Computer Science Professor Rahman Tahakon for writing the successful grant proposal to get this exceptionally worthwhile program at appstate.edu. The MSEC and the other five STEM centers in the UNC System will host an information session concerning our work. Program details of this conference are available on the North Carolina Association for Biomedical Research website, www.ncabr.org/.

The University is fortunate to have added two mathematics graduates to its large number of course modules that are available for adoption at www.csci.appstate.edu/ret. We are indebted to Computer Science Professor Rahman Tahakon for writing the successful grant proposal to get this exceptionally worthwhile program at appstate.edu. The MSEC and the other five STEM centers in the UNC System will host an information session concerning our work. Program details of this conference are available on the North Carolina Association for Biomedical Research website, www.ncabr.org/.

The Reich College of Education is again hosting the Region 7 Science Fair Festival. The Fair will be on Tuesday, December 15, 2015 in the new College of Education Building in ASU. The science fairs in Regions 7 are Alexander, Allegheny, Ashe, Avery, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Davie, Iredell, Surry, Watauga, Wilkes, and Yadkin. The registration fee is $10.00 per entry. Mr. Coleman Bailey, Colemanbailey@averyschools.net, is chairing the 2015-2016 Northwest Regional Science Fair. Online registration will be available sometime after mid-October at http://ncsefreg7.sfsab.com. Refer also to the MSEC website, www.msec.appstate.edu, for updated information concerning the Fair. Also, the Student Academy of Science (NCSAS) competition will take place in the afternoon in the same building. Mr. Susan Orme is chairing the NCSAS competition. Questions concerning the NCSAS competition may be sent to Sue at spurren01@gmail.com.

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