Expert Lessons for Future Math/Science Teachers

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ORONO, Maine – Future and potential teachers will have the chance to work with and be inspired by some top educators during a series of workshops and other events at the University of Maine on Saturday, March 2. The second annual Mathematics and Science Future Teachers Club Spring Conference is expected to attract more than 60 aspiring teachers and excite them about teaching in the critical shortage areas of math and science, especially the physical sciences.

UMaine students pursuing degrees in education, as well as those majoring in mathematics or science and are interested in teaching, will delve into topics such as Integrated Hydroponics, Aligning Instruction and Assessment to the Maine Learning Results and Calculator Programs for the Mathematically Minded. They will also hear a keynote address by Francis Eberle, director of the Maine Mathematics and Science Alliance, and visit exhibits and poster displays. Several future math/science teachers from the University of Maine at Farmington are also scheduled to attend.

The conference takes place in Donald P. Corbett Business Building from 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

The event is sponsored by the Maine Mathematics-Science Teacher Excellence Collaborative project as part of its goal to boost the numbers of grade 7-12 math and science teachers by improving the recruitment, preparation and support of students with strong interests in math, science and technology. To assist in recruitment, the Collaborative has created a $100,000-per-year scholarship fund to help support qualified students over the next four years.

Funded by a $4.6 million Collaboratives for Excellence in Teacher Preparation grant from the National Science Foundation, the five-year project is a joint effort of the Maine Math and Science Alliance, the University of Maine, the University of Southern Maine and the University of Maine at Farmington.

Principal investigators spearheading efforts at UMaine are Robert Franzosa, professor of mathematics; Herman Weller, associate professor of science education; and Mary Ann McGarry, research scientist with the UMaine Water Research Institute and associate professor of science education.

Award-winning educators presenting at the conference include: Marshalyn Baker, Williams Junior High, Oakland; Don Berthiame, Biddeford High School; Matthew Cyr, Leonard Middle School, Old Town; Jane Disney, former teacher at Mount Desert High School and current director of the MDI Water Quality Coalition; Shirley Ellis, Orono High School; Tad Johnston, former teacher at Orono High School, currently with the Maine Department of Education's regional Educational Services Team; Peter Pedersen, Vinalhaven High School; and Joe Siddiqui and Mike True, Maine School of Science and Mathematics, Limestone.
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