Message from Sandy Mayrand,
Director of the Regional Science Resource Center:
As the school year begins, we all look forward to working with you for another year. We are grateful for your continued use of the services that the RSRC provides throughout the year. Please think of us for math and science professional development, networking opportunities and laboratory experiences for your students. Let us know how we can help you! Best wishes for a terrific year!

Mark Your Calendar!!!
Upcoming Fall Dates:

- AP Calculus Network: September 23, 3:30-5:30 PM
- AP Biology Network: October 5, 3:30-5:00 PM
- AP Chemistry Network: October 6, 3:30-5:00 PM
- Curriculum Coordinators Network: October 7, 8:30-11:00 AM
- Curriculum Coordinators Network: December 9, 8:30-11:00 AM

LOCATION: Regional Science Resource Center

Mathematics Learning Community (MLC)
2010/2011 Facilitator Training
Facilitator Training Overview

The Mathematics Learning Community is an exciting form of job-embedded, ongoing professional development that is focused on student learning. The MLC uses student work as a means to connect professional development to the classroom and stimulate authentic discussions about how students learn mathematics with the goal of improving students’ understanding of mathematics. For more information about MLC, the dates for the Fall Training and to register, click here.

For more information, contact: Wendy Cleaves at 508-856-5348 or wendy.cleaves@umassmed.edu
Professional Development at the RSRC

The Assessing and Addressing Misconceptions in Physical Science course (3 graduate credits) this summer focused on density, energy and energy transfer, electricity and conservation of mass. This course was designed to improve science education in grades three to eight by delving deeply into science concepts about which students and adults often have strongly held misconceptions. Teachers used formative assessment strategies for understanding students' ideas about specific concepts. The class instructors were Kathy Berube and Jeff Glick from Worcester Public Schools, Joanne McDonnell from Anna Maria College, Duke Dawson from Worcester State University and Sandy Mayrand, UMMS. Funding for this course was provided by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Sixty-five teachers from across the state participated in the Increasing Accessibility to Algebra and Geometry for Special Education Students institute (3 graduate credits) held at Revere High School, Wilmington Middle School, West Springfield Middle School, and Fitchburg State University. Teachers deepened their content knowledge around such topics as linear equations, slope, two- and three-dimensional shapes, transformations, and area and accumulation. Institute instructors shared and modeled effective instructional strategies including Rule of Four link sheets, webs, sorts and stations. Teacher participants received several resource books along with a copy of Geometer's Sketchpad and a TI-84+ graphing calculator thanks to the generous support of the MA DSAC and the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) who funded these institutes.

Check out our Curriculum Resource Library!

All materials are available to borrow.
To schedule a time to visit, contact Karin at 508-856-1529
NASA's Summer of Innovation at the RSRC

This summer, the Regional Science Resource Center was one of the six locations in Massachusetts to receive $1.5 million in funding for summer enrichment programs in STEM education from NASA. Our program was the only non-engineering/space institution to receive funding.

During the two week science exploration program, middle school girls from Worcester and surrounding towns participated in hands-on activities at the RSRC, field trips to the EcoTarium, MIT Space Lab and UMASS Simulation Center and a videoconference with Dr. Liz Warren, an International Space Station medical operations scientist.

The Goddard Girls and DaVinci Divas designed Moon Habitats, built Crew Exploration Vehicles, tested out the Moon Walker at MIT, blogged about their daily activities, tried "astronaut ice-cream". The girls explored the world of space travel, its impact on the human body and how to use science, creativity and perseverance to solve challenges. To read an article about the Goddard Girls click here and visit our website to see more pictures of the girls in action.

The Massachusetts STEM Plan: A Summit Mapping the Commonwealth’s STEM Future

Tuesday, September 28th, 2010
From 7:30 AM to 4:30 PM
Sturbridge Host Hotel & Conference Center

There will be a keynote breakfast speech by Lt. Governor Timothy P. Murray, Chair of the Governor's STEM Advisory Council. Strands for the 2010 Summit include: Curriculum, Infrastructure, Data, Public Awareness, Diversity and Teacher Development. Morning break-out sessions will focus on understanding goals and recommendations from the Statewide STEM Plan that relate to each Strand while afternoon break-out sessions will focus on best practices and regional implementation. For more information and to register for the STEM Summit, click here.

RSRC Spotlight: Joanne McDonnell

Joanne is currently a full-time faculty member in the Education Department at Anna Maria College. In addition she has worked with the RSRC for over 10 years as curriculum implementation advisor and an instructor for the Assessing and Addressing Misconceptions courses. She is dedicated to advancing the expertise of both pre-service and in-service teachers as facilitators of inquiry-based learning in the science classroom.