



**Regional Science
Resource Center**
*University of Massachusetts
Medical School*

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Visit our brand new website at:
www.umassmed.edu/rsrc

Message from Sandy Mayrand, Director of the Regional Science Resource Center: Welcome back to a new school year! All of us at the Regional Science Resource Center are looking forward to an exciting year working with educators, students, the community, business partners and other educational stakeholders. We all will have challenges this coming year, but by working together we will be able to meet those challenges and succeed. Please contact us for your math and science needs.

Mark Your Calendar!!!

Upcoming Fall Dates:

Curriculum Coordinators Network: October 1, 8:30-11:00 AM
AP Calculus Network: October 1, 3:30-5:30 PM
AP Biology Network: October 13, 3:30-5:00 PM
AP Chemistry Network: October 14, 3:30-5:00 PM
High School Chemistry Network: October 21, 3:30-5:00 PM
Curriculum Coordinators Network: December 17, 8:30-11:00 AM

LOCATION: Regional Science Resource Center

Using looking at student work as a methodology, the **Mathematics Learning Community (MLC)** fosters authentic discussions about how children learn mathematics through collegial discussions that deepen teachers' knowledge of content and pedagogy. The RSRC has developed MLC curriculum materials to provide the structure, content and training to facilitate these school-based discussions. For more information about how your school can create their own MLC, be sure to visit our presentation at the upcoming NCTM Regional Conference in Boston:

**"Creating and Facilitating Mathematics Learning Communities
Focusing on Student Work"**

Thursday, October 22, 2009

12:30-2:00 PM

Sheraton Boston (Room Back Bay C)



To inquire about student lab visits, contact Karin at 508-856-1529



Check out our Curriculum Resource Library! All materials are available to borrow.

To schedule a time to visit, contact Wendy at 508-856-5438



Misconceptions Course



Summer Professional Development at the RSRC

"Serving over 100 teachers from 35 districts"

The Assessing and Addressing Misconceptions course (3 graduate credits) this summer focused on the water cycle and seasons. 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. Funding for this course was provided by the STEM Pipeline Fund from the Department of Higher Education.



Increasing Accessibility Course



Fifty-eight teachers from across the state participated in the **Increasing Accessibility to Algebra and Geometry for Special Education Students** institute (3 graduate credits) held at both Revere High School and Tantasqua Regional High School. 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 Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) who funded these institutes.



Summer MTEL Prep

The MTEL Preparation Course for teachers preparing for the high school math licensure test was offered in June and July. The class, led by Nancy Swanson, is designed as an intensive review course with additional practice to complete outside of class time to help in taking the test. A past participant commented "I did great on the test, thanks to Nancy. She was amazing and the course was instrumental to my passing." The RSRC will be offering a Middle School Math MTEL Prep Class after February vacation and another High School Prep Class in the summer 2010. Contact Wendy at 508-856-5348 for more information.





Lady Leo's



Over the summer, camp groups visited the lab to do interactive, hands-on activities. Girls, Inc. from Worcester visited with their Lady Leo's program where they focused on the seven principles of Leonardo DaVinci. The girls enjoyed a fun-filled, scientific day of extracting DNA from an onion and getting messy making polymer "silly" putty and Oobleck! A group from a program at Fitchburg State College also attended the RSRC Lab. Their two visits revolved around Chemistry and DNA. The students solved a crime scene, practiced chromatography and learned how germs were spread by seeing who was infected!

During these visits, it was exciting to see how kids were so involved and fascinated about science during the summer! Check out the pictures to the left!



Share with your students a great resource for learning about STEM Careers, containing information and a list of websites:

<http://www.umassmed.edu/rsrc/stemcareerinfo.aspx>

RSRC SPOTLIGHT ON:

**Kathy
Berube**

Science and Technology
Curriculum Liaison
Worcester Public Schools

Kathy is new to this position for the 2009/2010 school year in Worcester Public Schools. She was an instructor for the Misconceptions course and a collaborator on planning and implementing Innovation Month at Worcester Public Schools. One of the goals of her job is to initiate new inquiry based science programs in preschool, kindergarten and grade six. If you have any questions for Kathy, please email her at berubek@worc.k12.ma.us.