

Plymouth State University

Partnership for Science Inquiry (PSI)

The PSI project is a partnership of eight school districts, Plymouth State University (PSU), and the Hubbard Brook Research Foundation. The goal is to improve the science learning of K-12 students in New Hampshire schools by enhancing the science understanding and inquiry teaching skills of their teachers. Specifically, the project intends to

increase the understanding of Earth systems science among K-12 teachers, using the NH Frameworks for Science Literacy, district curricula, and other resources

develop specific learning progressions for key ideas in earth science

assist teachers in using inquiry-driven methods and learning progressions in their classroom teaching of science

To accomplish these goals PSI will employ a year-long combination of workshops and job embedded professional development. The project will begin with a 2009 summer workshop involving twenty-four teacher-leaders from elementary, middle and high school levels, working closely with PSU faculty. Then, using this group as a resource to form cross-tier teaching teams during the school year, the project will reach out to a much larger cohort of teachers across the partnering districts during the 2009-2010 school year. Cross-tier teaching teams will consist of new and veteran grade 4-12 classroom teachers and PSU science education faculty members.

Both the summer workshop and the school year professional development will carry PSU graduate credit. In total, nearly 100 teachers are expected to take part in sustained and intensive professional development around inquiry teaching and Earth systems science.