

University of New Hampshire - Manchester

Leaders in Mathematics Education (LIME)

The goals and objectives of LIME are to prepare future leaders in New Hampshire mathematics education and build a teacher network through professional development. While increasing their content knowledge about mathematics, the participants will learn about professional mathematics organizations that can help them to become better mathematics teachers and colleagues. The participants will increase their knowledge about data, probability, statistics and the NH Frameworks. 21 teachers in grades K-6 attended a class on data, statistics, and probability from July 14 - 18, 2008 at the University of New Hampshire Manchester. The participants were paired in groups of K-2 and 3-5 teachers for one day at the Amoskeag Fishways where they experienced the process of collecting, managing, interpreting, and analyzing data in the classroom under a life science framework. Experienced senior program naturalists helped teachers discover how to facilitate a project with their students in which they collect relevant life science data and use that information to conduct data and probability activities. The teachers learned hands-on, inquiry based methods of gathering life science data, where they could access existing data, methods of interpreting and analyzing life science data with students, and how to help their students organize and display such data. The teachers in grades 3-5 also learned how to help students determine the most effective method to collect data to answer a life science question. The overarching goal of the Fishways portion of LIME is to help teachers achieve both mathematics and life science curriculum frameworks goals concurrently.

Each LIME participant attended two Saturday meetings, Sept. 20th and Nov. 15th, from 8am-11am at UNHM to discuss successes and problems implementing the mathematical concepts learned over the summer. The NCTM navigation series was the textbook used and a copy of the book was provided for each participant. Each teacher was given a membership in New Hampshire Teachers of Mathematics and the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. Since one of the goals is trying to create a network of teacher leaders in mathematics education it is important for these teachers to know and understand the professional organizations that can assist them in being excellent mathematics teachers and leaders.

To highlight the work these teachers will have done, a free information conference will be held on January 13, 2009 from 4pm-8pm at UNHM where the teachers will have poster and group presentations showing not only what they learned during the summer course about how they implemented it during the beginning of the school year. Requiring the teachers to give presentations will give them confidence to continue sharing their knowledge and increase the base of New Hampshire mathematics educator leaders and increase the knowledge of other teachers.