The purpose of this project is to provide purposefully targeted science content training to thirty teachers from all three districts beginning in the summer of 2006 and continuing through the 2006-07 academic year. Our partners, Dartmouth College (Thayer School of Engineering, Wilder Laboratory for Astronomy and Physics, Department of Elementary Education and the Center of Cognitive Neuroscience), the Society of Woman Engineers at Dartmouth, Project Learning Tree, the Vermont Institute of Natural Science, and Synergy Learning, are committed to supporting up to thirty specifically identified teachers and classrooms in grades K-12. PLT, VINS, and Synergy Learning are all non-profit educational organizations with well-established histories of demonstrated effectiveness in providing high quality science opportunities for teachers and students.

A major common focus will be to provide meaningful training to project grade level teachers in Inquiry-based instruction as articulated in the National Science Educational Standards, Project 2061 materials form the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the draft version of the NH Science Frameworks, including the new Science Skills strand on Inquiry. The Project 2061 materials will be particularly featured with an emphasis on research supporting the development of the Atlas of Science Literacy with its specific benchmarks for essential understandings (and common student and teacher misconceptions). The first chapter in the Atlas, "The Nature of Science: features four Scientific Inquiry maps that outline essential research-based student understandings that will be used as a foundation for unit development by project teachers.