

“Math Matters” Grows, “Molecules Matter” Starts

For the second summer, mathematics teachers from several counties across southern Indiana learned about applying Project Based Learning during “Math Matters,” concluding in a 10-day session at Columbus’ Central Middle School. This year, a new workshop held on the IU Bloomington campus called “Molecules Matter” was included to help science teachers develop PBL lesson plans.

Catherine Brown, professor of mathematics education at the IU School of Education, developed Math Matters with the support of “Economic Opportunities through Education by 2015,” or EcO15 -- an initiative of business, education and community leaders to advance K-12 education in a 10-county area in southeastern Indiana.

After a successful program last summer, Brown connected with Jill Robinson, senior lecturer in the IU Department of Chemistry to create Molecules Matter, funded by a grant from the Indiana Commission of Higher Education.



Teachers confer on projects

With both Math Matters and Molecules Matter, teachers participated in sessions to learn PBL techniques from other teachers and IU faculty and staff. “At the end, they

have not only their own project that they can use in their curriculum, but they’ve heard about a number of other projects that other teachers here have created, and they could be comfortable adapting,” said Brown.”

SOE Prof Heads Mission to Take Books to Rwanda

An Indiana University delegation traveled to Rwanda to deliver original books as part of the “Books & Beyond Project.” The collaborative service-learning project connects students in IU’s Global Village Living-Learning Center, high school students in New Jersey, and primary school pupils in Rwanda who collaborate on storytelling, writing and publishing new books.

This year’s book, called *The World is Our Home, Vol. 2*, includes stories by the New Jersey and Rwandan students. The IU group traveled to Rwanda to meet the students and teachers

in the Kabwende Primary Center located in Kinigi, Northern Province. They toured the country, and delivered armloads of books to the children. The Kabwende Primary Center is an impoverished school in need of books and other English language learning materials.

The books will be used to help students of varying ages. While designed as a children’s book, *The World is Our Home* uses language at multiple levels of English usage. “Some of the early ones are basically alphabet stories or very simple stories of just a few words on each



Kabwende students show off books

page going up to kind of a low intermediate ESL level,” said Beth Samuelson, assistant professor in the Department of Literacy, Culture and Language Education in the IU School of Education and faculty coordinator of the project.

Second Annual PBL Workshop Attracts Participants from Across State, Country

With an additional day and about 100 more participants, the IU School of Education at IUPUI, the University of Indianapolis and its Center of Excellence in Leadership of Learning (CELL), and the Metropolitan School District of Wayne Township co-sponsored a project-based learning workshop. The workshop, titled “Learning by Doing: Project-Based Learning Institute” attracted participants from around Indiana, but also Michigan, Ohio, and as far away as Utah to Ben Davis High School in Indianapolis on June 28 through July 1.

Around 315 participants came for the event, which also partnered with the Buck Institute for Education this year. The number of participants was just around 200 in 2009. “Word’s getting out that we’re doing some good work,” said Adriana Melnyk-Brandt, director of professional development at the School of Education.

Project-based learning invites students to work on a project using technology and inquiry. Through these projects, students gain a deep learning of subject matter by discovering its relevance to their lives. The sessions at the PBL institute ranged from beginners with the technique to experienced project-based learning teachers.

“We have middle school people now, whereas last year we had mostly high school,” said Joy Seybold, director of the Transition to Teaching program and chair of secondary teacher education at the IU School of Education in Indianapolis. “We have 12 from the (Indiana) Department of Education—they supported their content people coming.” Seybold and Graduate Chair and Associate Professor of Language Education Beth Berghoff planned the original PBL institute last year with CELL.

Summer Institute Tops Off Year-Long Tech Sessions with Shelbyville Schools

Faculty and staff from the IU School of Education at IUPUI spent three days in Shelbyville in early June to cap off months of working with teachers to use technology more effectively. The Indiana Department of Education’s “Learning Technologies Grant” funded the Shelbyville Central Schools Corporation’s partnership with the School of Education at IUPUI starting in August 2009. Faculty and staff traveled to Shelbyville to work with teachers from elementary through high school over the school year, then concluded with an intensive summer institute June 7-9.

“This was really an opportunity for teachers to explore with some of the digital tools that they have available and maybe didn’t know about, but most importantly this experience challenged teachers to rethink the way they’re using technology,” said Joanna Ray, Director of Online Development for the IU School of Education in Indianapolis.

School of Education Faculty Receive Honors

Borden Chosen for Fulbright Award

The U.S. State Department and the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board have selected Victor M.H. Borden, professor of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies at the Indiana University School of Education, for a Fulbright Specialists project in South Africa. He will visit the University of KwaZulu Natal next month. and deliver the keynote address



Borden

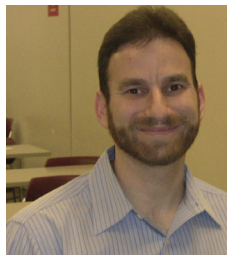
at the university’s fourth annual teaching and learning conference, then deliver a series of workshops and seminars to help academics to plan, implement, evaluate and improve projects and programs that enhance the effectiveness of teaching and learning and promote student success.

“I am very honored and excited to be selected for this project but it is also very humbling to fathom what I might be able to contribute to such a large scale social and organizational re-ordering,” Borden said of his Fulbright selection.

Danish Earns Award for Tech Teaching

An assistant professor in the Indiana University School of Education will collect an international award this week for exceptional technology-supported teaching. The Sakai Foundation has selected Joshua Danish, a faculty member in the Learning Sciences program as an honorable mention winner for its third annual “Teaching with Sakai Innovation Award.”

The Sakai Foundation licenses free and open software to educational institutions to help develop learning environments that use the latest technology. At Indiana University, Sakai is used through “Oncourse,” the university-wide online and teaching module used for all courses. Danish studies how innovative technologies can be used to support teaching and learning. His submission for the award was the design for a course, that incorporated tools such as Oncourse blogs and Twitter feeds. Danish engaged the students in continuing discussions about course material to create a richer learning experience.



Danish

Blackwell Earns Organization’s Top Award

The Association for Childhood Education International (ACEI) has named Associate Professor of Early Childhood and Elementary Education Jacqueline Blackwell the winner of a prestigious award.

The Patty Smith Hill Award is the highest honor given by the ACEI. The organization presented the award at the ACEI Annual International Conference in Phoenix, Arizona, on April 30, 2010. The award recognizes an outstanding long-term member who has demonstrated a deep commitment to improving children’s education and fulfilling ACEI’s goals.



Blackwell

A past president of ACEI, Blackwell has presented extensively throughout the world and has represented ACEI in England, Russia, Turkey, China, Switzerland, and other nations. “Dr. Blackwell is a valued member of ACEI, and she displays an extraordinary commitment to preparing new teachers to enter the classroom.” said ACEI Executive Director Diane Whitehead.

Whiston Receives ACA Best Practice Award

Professor Sue Whiston, Counseling & Educational Psychology received the American Counseling Association Best Practice Award at the ACA convention in Pittsburgh in March. The award was given for her research project, “School Counseling Outcome: A Meta-analytic Examination of Intervention.”

