

Albany State University

STEM Outdoors: a Pathway thru the new Georgia Standards of Excellence in Science

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The proposed new ITQ program, “STEM Outdoors: a Pathway thru the new Georgia Standards of Excellence in Science (GSES)” seeks to provide transformative professional learning experiences that strategically deepen teachers’ content knowledge of the new GSES; improve capacity for teaching the GSES using “3-Dimensional Science” (specifically: engaging students in science and engineering practices to make sense of core ideas and recognize crosscutting concepts); increase use of the schoolyard to provide context for integrated STEM learning investigations, problem-solving, and engineering design challenges; and facilitate increasingly student-designed and -implemented project-based learning through supportive scaffolding. This program is based on a model developed by Captain Planet Foundation and will target Earth and Life Science standards at grades K – 5.

Teacher recruitment will begin in February, 2017; a week-long institute will be held at Albany State in Summer, 2017; and sustained contact will continue throughout the 2017-18 school year, including visits by project staff and one-day follow-up workshops in fall and spring. Preference will be given to teams of teachers and science curriculum coordinators who will be redelivering professional learning for the new GSES, to create a supportive professional learning community in southwest Georgia. Three Dougherty County schools: Turner, Alice Coachman and Morningside Elementaries (Southwest GA RESA) and the Southwest Georgia STEM Charter School (Chattahoochee-Flint RESA) are partners in this program. Additional participants will be drawn from the cluster of nine high-need LEAs, including school districts in Stewart, Webster, Quitman, Randolph, Calhoun, Dougherty, Early, Miller and Mitchell Counties.

Arts & Sciences Unit of Institute of Higher Education
Albany State University—Department of Natural and Forensic Sciences

Unit of Institute of Higher Education that prepares teachers & principals
Albany State University—College of Education

High Need LEA(s)
Dougherty County
Southwest Georgia STEM Academy