UC Irvine FOCUS! Math Science Partnership

Project Description
UCI FOCUS! is a member of Cohort 1 of the national NSF Mathematics and Science Partnership (MSP) program, one of only seven comprehensive MSPs established in the first cycle of this program.

Teacher Leader Cadre (TLC)
• Strengthen and establish a collective PreK-12 regional team of teacher leaders with the capacity as professional development providers and site teacher leaders
• Identify and address the PD needs of FOCUS teachers
• Collaborate with Partnership School Districts on the development of curriculum guides

Future Teacher Highway (FTH)
• Enhance undergraduate preparation of future teachers through development of academic programs for UCI STEM majors
• Recruit and support Community College transfer students who plan to become future teachers

Faculty Outreach Collaboration (FOC)
• Develop new models of collaboration to strengthen and discover the most effective ways that university faculty and their resources can be engaged to assist PreK-12 in teaching the content standards.

PreK-SMARTS
• Model purposeful math, science and literacy lessons appropriate for Preschool children
• Support change in Preschool classroom practice, climate, and intentionality
• Develop a leadership cadre of Preschool professional development providers

Project Successes
Teacher Leader Cadre (TLC)
• Continued use of FOCUS! lessons
• Regional PDPs continue to provide PD in other districts
• Segue to two California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC) grants
• Segue to three Noyce grants (Master teacher and undergraduate internships)

Future Teacher Highway (FTH)
• Institutionalized in 2006 as UCI California Teach
• Undergraduate Minor in Educational Studies was revamped to include strands for students interested in math & science teaching
• Two living/learning communities for future teachers were established under the leadership of the MSP staff--the first living/learning communities of their kind in the UC system
• Community college future teachers were supported by the MSP via the UCI TEACH Math & Science summer residential program, and cross-enrollment in introduction to math and science teaching courses.

Faculty Outreach Collaboration (FOC)
• Current research appropriately explained and demonstrated or all grades levels
• Continued demand for FOC visits to school sites
• Nuclear Outreach (now has alternate funding)
• AP Chemistry Program
• FOC’s broader impact NSF’s
• Models for STEM Faculty Engagement
• Models of Assessment Tools for STEM Faculty
• Saturdays with Scientists

PreK-SMARTS
• The Science and Math Integrating Literacy in Early Childhood (SMILE) DVD highlights science, math, and literacy research-to-practice early childhood information emerged from a four-year NSF-funded PreK/K Leadership Institute.
http://focus.web.uci.edu/smarts/smile_video.php
• Continued PreK PD parallel to CPEC grants

Publications & Presentations

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