Bio EYES Reflection

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Thank you Notre Dame for opening your doors to community teachers. I’m very appreciative of ND’s involvement in obtaining the NSF grant’s to fund the BioEYES program. The leaders and educators of this program are very skilled, talented and intelligent educators. Pat, Anita, and Jill kept my interest all week. Their enthusiasm and love of science is contagious.

The lab tours allowed me to have a glimpse of the highest level of science research. I witnessed Dr. Hydes research on cures for blindness and Dr. LeVerne’s radiation research lab. It was so interesting to see the equipment that Dr. Verner designed and created to complete his research. It was fascinating to see how he collaborates with other skilled artisans such as a glass blower and metal smith to create parts of his machinery. I was impressed with his research and extra time he spent with our group.

The Jordon Hall of science is such an exceptional learning environment with state of the art equipment and technology. It was my pleasure to have had the opportunity to use a centrifuge, pipette, stereomicroscope and a heat bath in the modern labs. Using these tools has helped reacquaint myself with active science experimentation and has been a valuable experience.

I enjoyed my role as a student throughout the week. Being on the other side of the desk has inspired me to think of ways to incorporate BioEYES into our current curriculum. I teach 6th, 7th and 8th grade. Next year, I plan to teach the 6th grade basic embryonic development and touch on the circulatory and respiratory systems and how they differ among vertebrates. The 7th and 8th grade students will focus on genetics and statistics. During the following year the 8th grade will focus on the different variables of mating and raising eggs and how these variables effect the survival of zebra fish. Other ideas I have are to study the geography of West India. Incorporating the traditional music of that area the first 5 minutes of class while my students are writing in their journals. I will set the stage before Anita comes by showing short videos from youtube showing the students the Ganges River and discussing the way the Indian culture uses and worships the river. I will also incorporate some ecology. Our class will learn how the rice paddy plants help in the reproduction of zebra fish.

Overall I’m very excited to see my student’s curiosity and interest in this program they will gain valuable science skills that I can build upon all year long.