

The MASTEP follow-on grant supported New Teacher Support Network activities and faculty dissemination efforts in 2002-2005.

### **Continuation of the New Teacher Support Networks:**

Both San Jose State and San Francisco State Universities have a New Teacher Support Network in place. The San Francisco Network operates in conjunction with efforts by the Exploratorium in San Francisco. San Jose State operates its own Network.

#### San Jose State NTSN-

The Network continues to focus on two primary activities: induction of brand new teachers into the profession, and providing an Email network of communication for all MASTEP graduated teachers. During the earlier years of MASTEP, when a larger budget for activities was available, we sponsored periodic meetings and workshops to promote new pedagogical approaches for our new teachers. We have curtailed most of these meetings under this follow-on grant, because both of budget constraints and the fact that virtually all of our local school districts now offer some form of new teacher support and mentoring (which was not true early in MASTEP). Hence, our new teachers routinely attend workshops and meetings offered by their districts.

Our residential workshops are weekend long field experiences designed to bond the new teachers into personal networks of similar teachers and to model science and math activities that are student-centered and inquiry-based. Our experience over the several years of MASTEP has been that when our teachers live and work together over an intensive weekend of activities, important personal and professional contacts are established that bring the new teachers into the family of teaching professionals. The trips are designed and facilitated by a core group of experienced teachers and faculty from the university. Each trip is designed around a theme, which is discussed at pre-trip meetings. Each participant designs and brings a lesson plan that teaches concepts related to the theme. MASTEP produces a copy of each lesson for each participant, so each teacher leaves the weekend with an extensive resource binder.

The residential workshop for Spring Semester, 2004, was again held at the Point Reyes Lifeboat Station at the Point Reyes National Seashore, which is about 40 miles north of San Francisco. The Lifeboat Station is a small residential conference center where the participants must cook their own meals. The theme of the trip is "Where Land Meets the Ocean." The area has a stark and rustic beauty and is blessed with a long and interesting history. The headlands of the park jut into the Pacific Ocean, and they are frequently obscured with fog. Prior to the 1920's, many cargo ships were lost when they strayed to close to shore and piled up on the rocks (hence the presence of a lifeboat station). In the 1920's a lighthouse, operated without outside electricity, was built to assist passing ships. The lighthouse still operates and is visited by us when we are at the Station. Abundant marine life, including migrating whales, can be observed. Unique plant communities are present on the cliffs and sand dunes. Nearby are several oyster farms

where the teachers study the aspects of marine aquaculture. The weekend consists of small groups of teachers visiting the various locales and returning to the lifeboat station to give presentations on what they have learned and how it can be incorporated into their classroom teaching.

In Fall, 2004, the California Science Teachers Association met in San Jose and the 2004 California Mathematics Council's 47<sup>th</sup> Asilomar Mathematics Conference met in nearby Monterey. Our experience is that new teachers, in particular, benefit greatly by attending and participating at such meetings. Thus, as in 2003, we supported the attendance of many of our new science and math teachers at nearby professional meetings.

The second focus of our NTSN is our email network. Our area is fortunate to have many professional opportunities for math and science teachers. However, teachers are busy people who often don't hear about the opportunities. We in the MASTEP Office accumulate notices about such opportunities and periodically distribute them to our network of teachers. Because we have such an extensive network of new teachers, several organizations in our area request that we advertise their activities specifically to our new teachers.

#### San Francisco State NTSN-

As is the case with the NSTN at San Jose State, the Network at SFSU continues to operate as in the past few years. Activities fall into three categories: 1. Approximately two workshops per semester are offered by university faculty for the new teachers to demonstrate interesting, hands-on, lessons that can be taught to secondary students. 2. The students remain connected to the Exploratorium, and informal science and math education organization, which offers its own workshops and activities periodically. 3. Some of the NTSN participants are awarded travel funds to attend nearby professional meetings (parallel to what is done at San Jose State).

These three activities are organized by Drs. Kathleen O'Sullivan and Nancy Carnal. Also of note is that NTSN participants can also attend the Future Teacher's Club just as some do at San Jose State.

#### **Dissemination of Project Activities by Faculty:**

We invite our MASTEP faculty at all six campuses to apply for funds to support either presenting at a professional conference or authoring an article on their efforts in curriculum reform. We send notices to faculty to apply for funds each semester. See the publications list for specific articles (approximately 15) or presentations (approximately 50) in years 2002-2005.