

ConocoPhillips/Rice University Elementary Model Science Lab Agreement

The **Rice Elementary Model Science Lab** is designed to:

- Increase student achievement in science.
- Improve teachers' science content knowledge as it relates to the Nature of Science, Earth/Space Science, Physical Science and Life Science TEKS.
- Enhance the use of best practices in elementary science instruction including classroom management, quality questioning strategies, analyzing student work, etc.
- Create science leaders on their campuses who act as catalysts or agents of change
- Provide teachers with a comprehensive set of TEKS aligned student learning experiences and materials to teach these learning experiences.

For **2009-10**, the program targets fifth grade teachers who have the potential to become science teacher leaders on their campuses. We are looking for strong teachers who want to take their instructional practice 'to the next level'. Self-contained and departmentalized fifth grade teachers are invited to apply. Other elementary science teachers including 3rd grade, 4th grade, and multi-grade science lab teachers are also welcome to apply but may receive lower priority depending on pool of applicants. Space is expected to be VERY LIMITED. Last year we had 250 applicants and accepted only 80 teachers, and we anticipate that the number of applicants will be significantly higher for this year.

Participants for the Lab will be chosen from teachers who submit all parts of the application, part 1 and part 2. Part 1 is this signed letter of agreement with both the applicant and principal signatures. Part 2 the online survey that the applicant must complete. Applicants will be assigned into COHORT 1, COHORT 2, or the wait list. By completing an application, the applicant agrees to participate in either COHORT 1 or COHORT 2. Although activities for both Cohorts begin in 2009-10, Cohort 1 receives the full day each week of Lab training in 2009-10 while COHORT 2 receives the full day each week of Lab training in 2010-11. The 2010-11 program is dependent upon receiving continued program funding which is anticipated, but not guaranteed. The other benefits and requirements are given below.

COHORT 1

COHORT 1 Participants, in the 2009-2010 school year, will be required to:

- attend **all** weekly full day training sessions on their assigned day of the week (approximately 30 sessions) **to begin the week of September 9, 2009** at Treasure Forest Elementary School, 7635 Amelia St., Houston TX 77055
- be observed twice in their classrooms teaching science by outside evaluators
- administer Rice developed student assessments to one of their classes
- complete all activities, reading assignments, homework, and projects
- complete tests and surveys as required to measure professional growth
- coach or provide science professional development on their campus and document contact hours
- provide a copy of their college transcripts
- attend orientation with their principal during the first week of August

COHORT 1 Participants will receive:

- a year of professional development focused on enhancing science content knowledge, improving instructional practice, and using effective student learning experiences
- approximately 30 training sessions (approximately 200 CPE hours)
- 3 hours of Rice graduate credit, a \$5,184 value
- 6 hours of Differentiated Instruction GT credit
- \$1,000 in supplies and materials for their classrooms
- a \$500 stipend
- approximately 30 hours of professional development opportunities in **2010-2011**

Principals of COHORT 1 Participants will be required to:

- release their teacher **every** week without fail to attend all training sessions
- provide coverage for the participant's classes on Lab days
- permit on-campus observations of participants teaching science
- permit participants to administer Rice assessments to one class of their students
- complete short surveys about program impact
- attend orientation with their participant during the first week of August
- encourage joint planning times for science instruction within and across grade levels
- support participant as a change agent on their campus with respect to the campus science program including making available time and resources wherever possible to facilitate the participant and Rice staff to impact the classroom practice of other campus teachers
- encourage participant teacher to teach science throughout the academic year
- provide 5th grade science TAKS data for classes of participating teacher

Campuses of COHORT 1 Participants will receive:

- free access to TAKScopes™ online student learning experiences, a \$2,950 value
- science materials to assist campus teachers in teaching using TAKScopes™ online student learning experiences
- weekly e-newsletter updates to principals and other stakeholders detailing program activities and upcoming events
- a final report on the program's accomplishments

COHORT 2

COHORT 2 Participants, in the 2009-2010 school year, will be required to:

- be observed twice by outside observers in their classrooms teaching science
- attend two meetings and complete tests and surveys as required to measure their professional growth
- administer two Rice developed student assessments to one of their classes

COHORT 2 Participants will be required, in the 2010-2011 school year to:

- attend **all** weekly full day training sessions on their assigned day of the week (approximately 30 sessions) **to begin the week of September 7, 2010** at Treasure Forest Elementary School, 7635 Amelia St., Houston TX 77055
- be observed twice in their classrooms teaching science
- administer Rice developed student assessments to one of their classes
- complete all activities, reading assignments, homework, and projects

- complete tests and surveys as required to measure professional growth
- coach or provide science professional development on their campus and document contact hours
- provide a copy of their college transcripts
- attend orientation with their principal during the first week of August

COHORT 2 Participants will receive, in the 2010-2011 school year:

- a year of professional development focused on enhancing science content knowledge, improving instructional practice, and using effective student learning experiences
- approximately 30 training sessions (approximately 200 CPE hours)
- 3 hours of Rice graduate credit, a \$5,184 value
- 6 hours of Differentiated Instruction GT credit
- \$1,000 in supplies and materials for their classrooms
- a \$500 stipend
- approximately 30 hours of professional development opportunities in **2011-2012**

Principals of COHORT 2 Participants will be required, in the 2009-2010 school year to:

- permit two outside observations of their **2010-2011** Cohort teacher
- permit selected participant to administer two Rice developed student assessments to one of their classes
- provide 5th grade science TAKS data for classes of participating teacher

Principals of COHORT 2 Participants will be required, in the 2010-2011 school year to:

- release their teacher **every** week without fail to attend all training sessions
- provide coverage for the participant's classes on Lab days
- permit on-campus observations of participants teaching science
- complete short surveys about program impact
- attend orientation with their participant at the Lab during the first week of August
- encourage joint planning times for science instruction within and across grade levels
- support participant as a change agent on their campus with respect to the campus science program including making available time and resources wherever possible to facilitate the participant and Rice staff to impact the classroom practice of other campus teachers
- encourage participant teacher to teach science throughout the academic year
- provide 5th grade science TAKS data for classes of participating teacher

Campuses of COHORT 2 Participants will receive in 2010-2011:

- free access to TAKScopes™ online student learning experiences, a \$2,950 value
- science materials to assist campus teachers in teaching using TAKScopes™ online student learning experiences
- weekly e-newsletter updates to principals and other stakeholders detailing program activities and upcoming events
- a final report on the program's accomplishments

By signing below, you and your principal agree that you would be willing to participate in either **COHORT 1** or **COHORT 2** if you are selected for either **COHORT** and that you agree to all the terms listed above for **COHORT 1** and **COHORT 2**.

School name: _____ District: _____

Science Teacher Name: _____

Teaching Assignment: _____

Teacher Signature: _____

Date: _____

Principal name: _____

Principal Signature: _____

Date: _____

Please fax a copy of the agreement letter to Colleen LaBorde at **713-348-4229** and mail the signed copy by **April 3, 2009** to:

Colleen LaBorde, Program Coordinator
School Science & Technology Program
Center for Education-MS 147
Rice University
PO Box 1892
Houston, TX 77251-1892.

Applicant selection will begin on April 13, 2009.