



NEWS RELEASE

Professional Development for Teachers Pays Off! *Museum Institute for Teaching Science Course Inspires Teachers and Students*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Kathy Zagzebski 508-743-9888, x301 (cell) 774-313-8850

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Do you remember your favorite school teacher? It's likely that they turned you on to learning both through their passion for teaching and through hands on-explorations that captured your own imagination. Local teachers in the Cape Cod and South Shore region are using these "inquiry based" methods, and are supported by local museums and non-profit organizations through professional development sponsored by the Museum Institute for Teaching Science (MITS) Summer Institutes.

"It's a great partnership," exclaimed Kathy Zagzebski, President and Executive Director of the National Marine Life Center. "At last summer's institute, we had participants from Cape Cod to Barre, MA. The teachers were a lot of fun and we enjoyed teaching them about sea turtle strandings and rehabilitation. Many teachers later used NMLC's data and activities in their science lessons."

This year's Summer Institute runs weekdays from July 6-16 and is offered by the National Marine Life Center, Cape Cod Maritime Museum, OceanQuest, and South Shore Natural Science Center. The broad theme: "Interactions in the Sciences" connects life, physical and earth science. Each day participants will engage in hands-on, minds-on inquiry-based science activities as they investigate the interconnections between living systems, earth systems, and their physical and chemical features.

The registration deadline has been extended to June 18. Teachers may learn more and register on-line at http://www.mits.org/summer_institute.htm.

MITS' state-wide network of museums and other cultural institutions encourage both teacher and student interest in science, making MITS Summer Institutes unique and highly engaging for teachers. This model of professional development promotes the teaching of participatory, inquiry-based STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) education. MITS' programs contribute to the Massachusetts state-wide STEM initiative supported by educational organizations, the Department of Elementary Secondary Education, the Department of Higher Education and the Governor's STEM Advisory Council by building strong partnerships to increase the number of students pursuing STEM careers.

The National Marine Life Center is an independent, non-profit marine animal hospital, science, and education center dedicated to rehabilitating for release stranded sea turtles, seals, dolphins, porpoises, and small whales, and to advancing scientific knowledge and education in marine wildlife health and conservation. The center just broke ground on a new marine animal hospital that will advance their ability to restore life to the ocean.

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