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Area Teachers Attend PRISM Lead Teacher Academy
East Central & Southeast Georgia PRISM teachers get an early start to school year

ATLANTA [July 26, 2005] – Georgia teachers of science and mathematics got a jump start on their school assignments last week at the annual Lead Teacher Academy sponsored by The Partnership for Reform in Science and Mathematics (PRISM). More than 75 teachers from the East Central and Southeast Georgia PRISM regions participated in this year’s two-day Academy at the Coastal Georgia Center in Savannah.

The East Central PRISM region includes elementary, middle and high schools in the Bulloch, Candler, Effingham, Evans, Screven, and Toombs County and Vidalia City School Systems. The Southeast PRISM region includes elementary, middle and high schools in the Chatham, Bryan, Camden, and Glynn County School Systems.

Of the x participating elementary, middle and high schools in (insert county name), each school has either one or two designated lead teachers who provide leadership to the science and mathematics teachers within their schools throughout the year. The Lead Teacher Academy is part of PRISM’s strategy to provide high quality professional development to science and mathematics teachers of pre-K through high school students in order to elevate classroom content and student proficiency in those areas. Teacher professional development is the top priority of all four PRISM regions in order to improve science and mathematics student achievement throughout Georgia.

The Lead Teacher Academy offered newly appointed PRISM Lead Teachers the skills, tools, and strategies needed to become effective leaders in science and/or mathematics within their elementary, middle or high school. Teachers who are often isolated from one another were given the opportunity to collaborate and learn from their peers.

“As a Lead Teacher for my school, I see how PRISM provides that little spark that gets our teachers excited and we can see how our work really is important to improving the math and science scores of our kids,” said Vicky Marshall, Lead Teacher for Julia P. Bryant Elementary in Bulloch County.

Marshall and her school are among many in the area participating in the PRISM opportunities available to their school districts. Last year, second grade students at Bryant Elementary did research on soil-born germs and diseases in a school garden, something she says would not have been possible without PRISM.

Marshall was on a panel of four “veteran lead teachers” who spoke to new lead teachers at the Academy about their experiences with PRISM during the past year.

Highlights of the Academy included an overview of the PRISM program, lessons on effective leadership practices, the PRISM Lead Teacher panel discussion and a teacher self-assessment to determine personal professional development needs.

PRISM is a five-year, \$35 million initiative funded by the National Science Foundation and administered by the University System of Georgia with the primary purpose of improving student achievement in science and mathematics at all levels of education throughout Georgia. PRISM is working actively in four diverse regions of the state with partners at the university and P-12 level in each region. For more information about PRISM, visit www.gaprism.org.

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Please see the attached agenda and the websites below for further information.

<http://gaprism.org/educators/professional.phtml>

<http://www.georgiasouthern.edu/prism>

<http://www.prism.armstrong.edu>

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