

EFFINGHAM HERALD

Educators enrich science skills thanks to grant

Four teachers from Effingham County High School attended the National Association of Biology Teachers National Convention Oct. 5-8 in Milwaukee, Wis.

Yvonne Arnsdorff, M. Ed.; Amy Garrett, M.A.T.; Michelle Griffin, M.Ed.; and Kendra Nighbert, Ed.S. were able to attend the convention thanks to a mini-grant funded by the Partnership for Reform in Science and Mathematics (PRISM).

They attended workshops, listened to presentations by guest speakers such as stem cell pioneer James Thompson and viewed demonstrations and hundreds of exhibits.

Nighbert, ECHS's science

dept. chair, said the teachers were extremely grateful for the opportunity to attend the convention and they brought back lots of great ideas to enrich their classroom instruction.

The PRISM mini-grant is part of a larger \$34.6 million grant from the National Science Foundation. Partnered with Georgia Southern University, the Effingham County School System and six other school districts in this area received \$5.5 million of the



Nighbert

grant money to help improve student achievement in mathematics and science. Georgia Southern's College of Education has been working with the math and science teachers, preschool through college, for the past year.

Greg Arnsdorff, Effingham County's Director of Instruction and Technology says that "the teamwork approach ensures that the schools will be properly equipping its students with the knowledge and skills to be successful in science and math." Although data from the

National Assessment of Educational

Progress reflects that Georgia lags behind the nation in both science and mathematics achievement, Georgia's new science curriculum has received high praise from a widely-respected education foundation.

The Thomas B. Fordham Foundation ranked the Georgia Performance Standards in science as the 12th-best science curriculum in the country.

The Foundation also said Georgia's new science standards were among the "most improved" in the nation.