



# Enhancing Science Education in Northeastern Kentucky

## Morehead State University and Rowan County Schools START Partnership



**1. Brief description of our project**

The overall goal of this project is to improve science education for children in grades 5 through 8 within our region of Eastern Kentucky. We are taking a 3-pronged approach in order to accomplish this goal. In the first, we are working directly with in-service classroom teachers in these grades to improve their content knowledge and to provide them with materials, lesson plans, and training in inquiry. In the second, we are working with the College of Education at Morehead State University to make revisions in the curriculum for students preparing to become middle grades teachers. These revisions will strengthen students' skills in science. Finally, we are working with the local community colleges to provide teacher-specific science courses that will transfer to Morehead State University.

**2. What will be the indicators of success for our project and how do we plan to document them?**

**In-service teacher component**

- \* Teachers attending workshops and actively participate.
  - > attendance logs from workshops and direct observation
  - > evaluation forms of workshops
- \* Teachers making use of the science materials provided.
  - > classroom observations
  - > general surveys and interviews
- \* Teacher willingness to allow observation of their classrooms while they are using materials provided at workshops.
  - > teacher surveys
- \* Teachers using inquiry methods of instruction in the classroom.
  - > classroom observations and teacher surveys

**Teacher preparation component**

- \* Implementation of a revised Middle Grades Teacher Education curriculum.
  - > compare Praxis science scores before and after implementation

**Community college component**

- \* Implementation of teacher-specific science courses in the community colleges.
  - > discussions with community college partners

**Overall**

- \* Establishment of a working partnership
  - > e-mailed/phoned requests for assistance and/or classroom presentations
  - > attendance logs and meeting notes
- \* Improvement in 5-8 students' attainment of state science standards
  - > comparing scores on state tests before and after implementation

