

The Appalachian Mathematics and Science Partnership Receives Supplemental Funding

The National Science Foundation awarded the Appalachian Mathematics and Science Partnership approximately \$600,000 to fund the AMSP Master Teacher Project.

The Appalachian Mathematics and Science Partnership (AMSP) was awarded \$600,000 in supplemental funding by the National Science Foundation to support the AMSP Master Teacher Project. Starting in January, 2009 the new project will provide a select group of K-12 mathematics and science teachers with a two-year program of mentored professional and leadership development. Through this training program AMSP aims to create at least twelve highly skilled Master Teachers of mathematics and science to serve as expert resources in high-need school districts within central Appalachia. In the process, AMSP aims to synergize partnerships between school district personnel and university faculty in an effort to accelerate long-term educational improvements and expand effective cross-institution coordination.

University faculty and Regional Teacher Partners who were trained through the highly successful Appalachian Rural Systemic Initiative (ARSI) Master Teacher Program will work directly with the AMSP Master Teachers as mentors. The primary role of the university faculty will be to facilitate the **IHE Mentor Teams** that concentrate on developing the instructional content of the Master Teachers. The ARSI Regional Teacher Partners will facilitate a **Community of Practice** that is designed to prepare the Master Teachers to lead professional development as it relates to curriculum, instruction, and assessment. In addition, the Master Teachers will attend national institutes along with their ARSI mentors to receive the **Formal Training** component of their training program. The Master Teachers will use the expertise they develop and the nationally recognized materials they receive through this three-part training program to provide professional development for mathematics and science teachers within their own districts and across the central Appalachian region.

Through the two years of in-depth training provided by the AMSP Master Teacher Project a Master Teacher Network will be developed that provides a framework of sustainability in sharing content and pedagogy among mathematics and science teachers in the region. This framework is designed to mesh with and enhance existing mathematics and science improvement efforts and thus deepen the impact of the AMSP on the advancement of mathematics and science achievement in central Appalachia. The AMSP Master Teacher Project is directed by Dr. John Yopp, Associate Provost for Education Outreach and International Affairs, Executive Director of the Partnership Institute for Mathematics and Science Education Reform and Project Director for the AMSP. The project will be coordinated by staff at the University of Kentucky, specifically, Dr. Wimberly Royster, Kimberly Zeidler and Debbie Owens.
