

Bristol-Myers Squibb – Rider University
Grant Program for Enhancement of Science Teaching
*A Joint Program of the Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation and the
Rider University Science Education and Literacy Center (Rider SELECT)*

The Bristol-Myers Squibb-Rider University Grant Program for Enhancement of Science Teaching aims to improve science teaching and learning by supporting **teacher enhancement initiatives** in public school districts and independent and parochial schools in the region. The program is consistent with the overall mission of the Bristol-Myers Squibb (BMS) Foundation and supportive of the Company's commitment to support the communities in which its employees live and work. Similarly, the program reflects the aims of the Rider University Science Education and Literacy Center (SELECT) and its regional professional development network, the Consortium for New Explorations in Coherent Teacher Education (CONNECT-ED), both operating at the Bristol-Myers Squibb Center for Science Teaching and Learning at Rider University.

****Technical Assistance Workshop (optional)****

Applicants wishing guidance developing a proposal may register for a Technical Assistance Workshop:

Date/Time: February 1, 2008 from 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Location: Rider University's Bristol-Myers Squibb Center for Science Teaching & Learning

Registration is required and space is limited. Contact 609-896-5333 or tlc@rider.edu.

Grant Purpose: Grants support initiatives to improve the **teaching of PK-12 science**, in particular those initiatives aimed at **teacher professional development** in public school districts, independent schools, and parochial schools. Research has shown that teacher quality, including a teacher's content knowledge and understanding of how students learn, are key factors in student success. Grants may be used to create opportunities for teachers of science to enhance their content knowledge and pedagogical skills, with particular emphasis on the mastery of inquiry-centered, research-based methods. Toward this end, the program encourages collaboration, shared resources, and partnership building among districts/schools.

Eligibility: PK-12 public school districts, independent schools, and parochial schools.

Geographical Focus: New Jersey, with a particular focus on Mercer, Hunterdon, Somerset, Monmouth, Burlington, Ocean, and Camden Counties; and Pennsylvania's Bucks, Montgomery, and Philadelphia counties.

Ineligible for Grants are:

- Recipients of a 2007 BMS-Rider Grant for Enhancement of Science Teaching (i.e., current active grantees).
- Public school districts or independent schools who are active partners in a currently funded NSF or New Jersey Department of Education Math and Science Partnership (MSP) grant.

Grant range: Up to \$7,500

Grant term: 1 year. Districts/schools awarded a grant must wait one year to re-apply.

Cost Sharing: District/school cost sharing is strongly encouraged.

Applying for a Grant: The program considers requests for support only from public school districts, independent schools, and parochial schools that can demonstrate systemic support for science education and that satisfy the requirements of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Eligible districts/schools may partner with other districts/schools, higher education institutions, or nonprofit organizations that support science teaching and learning; however, the originating district/school must serve as the lead institution and fiscal agent for the grant. Only one request per district will be considered.

Letter of Request: Districts/schools should submit a letter containing the following information:

- **Evidence** of the district/school's history of support for science education, including **goals** and **key accomplishments** to date.
- The **purpose/project** for which the grant is requested and **rationale** for support, including how the proposed plan fits the district's professional development plan or district priorities.
- A description of **how you will implement** what has been proposed, the **person(s) responsible**, and a **timeline** for implementation.
- Indicate **how you will measure the plan's progress** and effectiveness.

Attach the following to your letter of request: (These do not count toward the 3-page limit.)

- Cover sheet (see form attached)
- Letter of support from your Superintendent (for public school districts) or school chief executive (for independent and parochial schools).
- Project budget and explanatory notes; indicate any district/school or partner funds contributed toward the cost (i.e., cost sharing).
- List of current external funding sources.

Format: The letter of request should be no more than **three (3) pages**, single spaced. The budget attachment must include explanatory notes.

Grant Cycle:

Annual grant announcement:	January
Application deadline:	March 28, 2008 (postmark date)
Review period:	March – May
Notification:	June 1
Grant disbursement:	July 1

Reporting Requirement: All grantees will submit a report at the end of the grant period. Report guidelines will be provided.

Requests should be mailed to:

Jean L. Kutcher
Administrative Director
Teaching and Learning Center
Rider University
2083 Lawrenceville Road
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648-3099

Requests sent via e-mail or fax will not be accepted.

Questions: Please call (609) 896-5000, ext 7257 or e-mail jkutcher@rider.edu.

More information: Go to www.rider.edu/tlc (click on SELECT on the side bar menu)

The Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation's long-standing support for science education reform in the U.S. is rooted in Bristol-Myers Squibb's commitment to the communities where their families work and live and to the achievement of science literacy for all Americans. As the charitable arm of a company that is a major employer of scientists, the Foundation has a significant interest in supporting the teaching and learning of science and math. The Foundation's science literacy policy states, "If we succeed in improving education in our communities, it will attract new employees to the areas where our plants and facilities are located, support the families of our employees who already live in those areas, and better prepare our children for the future. For every school we succeed in improving, we widen and deepen the future talent pool for our company and others to draw on. And for every student we help to become a better problem solver, analytical thinker and decision maker, we contribute to a more scientifically literate citizenry and nation better prepared to maintain a global economic leadership position."

The Rider University Science Education and Literacy Center (SELECT) is dedicated to the preservice preparation and career-long professional development of PK-16 teachers of science and mathematics. SELECT is a collaborative effort between Rider's School and Education and science departments and is built upon active partnerships with area public school districts and independent schools. SELECT also collaborates with other institutions of higher education and local, regional, and national organizations that support the improvement of science and mathematics teaching and learning.