

CONNECT-ED Content Courses

Rider University and the CONNECT-ED Consortium (your district is a member) will offer the first “Big Idea Content Courses” in the spring of 2012. These courses are designed to address the “big ideas” in science taught at all levels from elementary through middle school. Teachers of science from those grades, and special education teachers from any grade level unfamiliar with the science content, will find these courses valuable because these are the same science concepts you are helping your students understand. Grade level appropriate lessons will be used and the content will gradually work towards middle school level standards. For each 4-week course, you can earn professional development hours and a stipend; graduate credit will be possible if you take all three 4-week courses. *Registration will be limited*; register quickly! See additional details below. Classes will meet Thursday night each week for 3 hours starting at 6 pm at Consortium district sites noted below. **If you have any questions, please email tlc@rider.edu or call 609-896-5333.**

Module Descriptions:

The three stand-alone modules offered during spring 2012 can be taken in any combination to earn professional development hours only; all three modules are required to earn graduate credit. Each module will explore physical science topics in sufficient depth to unify and explain the related NJ Core Science Standards with the goal of facilitating teaching at the elementary and middle school levels. Big ideas, connections between topics, and inquiry-based learning will be emphasized throughout. All class meetings will take place Thursday evenings, with specific dates provided for each module within descriptions below.

Module 1-The Physical Description of Matter: This module will explore the world around us in terms of its physical make-up- the matter that composes everything (ourselves included). The module will explain NJ Core Science Standards regarding matter and states of matter in terms of the roughly 90 elements that, in some combination, create everything around us, and the energy that dictates how these 90 elements interact. [Class meeting dates: 2/23, 3/1, 3/8, 3/15; Location: Hopewell Valley Central High School]

Module 2-Transformation of Matter: Our universe is a dynamic place, with all of its contents in a state of continual change. Using energy as the conceptual mechanism for this change, this module will explore how and why matter rearranges itself to form new and unique substances, and how these substances exist in different states. New Jersey Core Science Standards will be emphasized throughout. [Class meeting dates: 3/29, 4/12, 4/19, 4/26; Location: Hopewell Valley Central High School]

Module 3-Matter in Motion: Motion exists on a huge scale, from the jittery particles that make up every atom to the regular motion of the planets in the solar system. This module will explore the diversity of motion from the perspective of the forces and energy that drive motion, and will unify this seemingly complex subject around Newton’s three laws. [Class meeting dates: 5/10, 5/17, 5/24, 5/31; Location: Hillsborough High School]

Stipends, Fees and Registration Info: *Registration for each module will be limited to 15 participants* and will be filled on first come first served basis. We can offer stipends to participants for this pilot version of the content courses upon completion of the meetings and course work. See stipend details on other side of this flyer. Registration requires a fee paid directly by either personal check or via district PO. Registrants will be responsible to arrange payment by their districts. See back side for info on graduate credits. **To register:** <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FCZN33W>.

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Course work expectations-Our CONNECT-ED district partners have recommended to us that work expectations of participants should be the same for those who sign up for only PD hours and for those who sign up for graduate credit. Each module will likely include a combination of several of the following assessments: weekly content quizzes; science journal entries from class meetings; curriculum design projects; science project design and implementation; and/or analysis of relevant student work.

Registration Fees-Fees are structured around your district's participation level in the CONNECT-ED Consortium. Fees must be paid prior to start of course by either personal check or district PO. Each registrant is responsible to arrange payment by their districts if the district provides this support.

We can offer a reduced registration fee for teachers in districts that have paid the CONNECT-ED consortium fee this school year. If you are a teacher in the **Newgrange School**, or **Hillsborough, Lawrence**, or **Montgomery** school districts, these schools have committed to the Phase III consortium fee as of 1/1/2012 and you qualify for the reduced registration fee. If you are from another district and are uncertain if your district is in the process of paying the consortium fee please contact tlc@rider.edu to check in about details.

Teachers from districts who have paid 2011-2012 consortium fee

Fee: \$100 per module

[Waived if you register for grad credit]

Teachers from other Districts

Fee: \$150 per module

[Waived if you register for grad credit]

To register go to: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/C-E_Big_Ideas_Phys_Sci_crse_Reg

Registration Deadlines: We encourage you to register as soon as possible and for all the modules you want to sign up for at one time given the enrollment cap of 15 per module. However, if necessary you can register for each module up to the following deadlines:

Module 1: 2/17/2012

Module 2: 3/22/2012

Module 3: 5/3/2012

Your registration will be considered complete when you have completed the C-E registration form (linked here), and we have received payment or you have enrolled in the Rider graduate course.

Stipend details-For this pilot phase of our C-E content courses stipends will be made available if your district does not provide this support. Our stipends are structured around your district's participation in the CONNECT-ED consortium. All stipends will be awarded after completion of all aspects of each module.

Active Districts in Phase III

C-E Stipend*: \$200 per module

Districts not active in Phase III

C-E Stipend*: \$100 per module

*if not provided by your district

Graduate credit-If you want to earn graduate credits, you must take all 3 modules. There will be an additional university course registration step that will be completed during the first class meeting on 2/23. Following this step you Rider University will bill you for 3 credits of tuition; the C-E registration fee for each module will be waived if you sign up for graduate credits and the C-E stipend noted above is also available for credit-earning participants. Tuition for the 3-credit course will be \$1860 for spring 2012 semester (\$620 per credit). Registrants will be responsible to arrange district reimbursement for tuition, if available. *Registration via the above link is still required!* **Contact browne@rider.edu for more information.**