A science experience for 9th Grade Teachers and Latino students

Do you know any school teachers at the secondary education level? Do you know any Latino/a students in grades 8 or 9? If you answered “yes” at least once, you could help spread the word about a new outreach program available at no cost for Hispanic students who are in grades 8 or 9.

The Learning in the Woods Science Experience is organized by the Department of Geography at the University of Nevada, Reno in cooperation with the Geographic Alliance in Nevada, and with the financial support of the Paleoclimate Program in the Division of Atmospheric Sciences at the National Science Foundation. The objective of the meeting is to introduce high school teachers and Latino/a students to the science of climate change by exploring the connections that exist between tree growth and climate. Participation is limited to 10 teachers and 20 students (two students per teacher). The course has been approved by the Nevada Department of Education for 1.5 in-service credits.

All expenses are covered by a National Science Foundation grant, including travel and (optional) registration for one graduate-level credit. Lodging is available at a university residence hall, and meals are provided at the University Inn on campus. The outcome of the experience will be a completed lesson plan, which teachers must submit by July 1. Application deadline: May 1, 2003.

Credits: 1 optional graduate credit (GEOG 691)
When: June 17-20, 2003; Tues., 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; Wed., 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; Thurs., 9 a.m.-11 p.m.; Fri., 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
Instr: Franco Biondi, Ph.D. Assistant Professor, UNR
Fee: A $50 refundable fee is due with registration; course fees and tuition paid by National Science Foundation grant
Reg. #: AA 888 Section 701
Where: Mackay Science Building, Room 301; University Quad; and Fleischmann Planetarium and Science Center; plus off-campus field trip

Program Overview
The program is organized in two parts: the first (two days) involves only teachers who are introduced to basic scientific concepts on tree growth and climate, participate in field work activities, and discuss how scientific results can be incorporated in a lesson plan. The second (two days) involves both teachers and students, and offers laboratory experiences, discussions and demonstrations. Hands-on practice with measuring and mapping instruments is provided in both parts of the program. Laboratory activities culminate with the use of binocular stereo zoom microscopes and specialized equipment for measuring tree-ring width.

Included in the program are a tour of the University of Nevada, Reno campus, a visit to the Fleischmann Planetarium and Science Center, and a group picture.

Application Procedure
Selection will be on a first-come first-serve basis. After receiving 10 completed applications, additional applicants will be placed on a waiting list. The application process includes two steps:

STEP I: Teachers apply by sending (a) a letter stating their interest in the program; (b) the names and addresses of four Latino students who should be considered for participation; (c) a $50 application fee, which will be fully returned if the teacher attends the meeting or if he or she is not selected. The fee will not be returned if a teacher is selected but then cancels his or her participation and cannot be replaced before the meeting.

STEP II: Two of the four Latino students are selected at random by the meeting organizers, and they are invited to participate. If one or both cannot attend the meeting, the invitation is extended to one or both of the other students. If none of the four students accepts the invitation, the teacher must provide additional names until two Latino students agree to participate. Students will be provided with bilingual information on the meeting, and all their expenses will be covered. An additional $20 reimbursement will be sent to each student after he or she attends the meeting.

Both steps must be completed by May 1. Late applications will be placed on a waiting list.

Graduate Credit
Students who desire graduate credit but have not established status with the university’s Graduate School must complete a Graduate Special Application form and pay a one-time fee of $40. (The one-time application fee for students registering for this course only will be paid by the National Science Foundation grant if the student completes all requirements for graduate credit in the Learning in the Woods program.)

Course Grades
Course grades for ALL academic credit courses are posted to transcripts only at the end of each semester. Please plan accordingly.

For Additional Information
For more information, a complete program outline or questions about program content, contact Dr. Franco Biondi at (775) 784-6995 or email: fbiondi@unr.edu.

Space is limited —apply today!
Aprendiendo en el Bosque

Experiencia Científica para Maestros de 9° Grado y Estudiantes Latinos
Patrocinado por National Science Foundation

¿Conócés a maestros de nivel secundaria?
¿Conócés a estudiantes Latinos en grados 8° o 9°?

Si tu respuesta es afirmativa, podrías ayudarnos a distribuir información sobre un nuevo programa, disponible sin costo a estudiantes Latinos en grados 8° o 9°. El programa Aprendiendo en el Bosque es organizado por el Departamento of Geografía en la Universidad de Nevada, Reno (UNR), en cooperación con la Alianza Geográfica en Nevada, y con el apoyo financiero del Programa de Paleoclima de la División de Ciencias Atmosféricas de la National Science Foundation. El objetivo del programa es introducir a maestros y estudiantes Latinos a la ciencia del clima por medio de la exploración de las conexiones que existen entre el crecimiento de los árboles y el clima. Participación en este programa está limitada a 10 maestros y 20 estudiantes (dos estudiantes por cada maestro). Los costos serán cubiertos por el programa, incluyendo el viaje a UNR y el costo de registración para recibir 1 crédito de posgrado para los maestros (opcional). La estancia estará disponible en las casas de residencia de la universidad, y la comida será suministrada por la cafetería de la universidad.

Visión General: El programa está organizado en dos partes. La primera parte (dos días) incluye solo a los maestros, quienes serán introducidos a los conceptos básicos del clima. También incluye participación en actividades de campo, y discusión de cómo incorporar la información recibida en sus lecciones. La segunda parte (dos días) incluye a maestros y estudiantes, y ofrece experiencias en el laboratorio, discusiones, y demostraciones. Práctica con instrumentos de medición será proveida en las dos partes del programa. Actividades en el laboratorio culminarán con el uso de microscopios especializados. Incluido en el programa será una gira por UNR, una visita al Planetario de la universidad, y una foto de grupo.

** ¡No demores! El número de participantes es limitado. **

Aplicar antes de: Mayo 1, 2003

Lugar: Universidad de Nevada, Reno
Fecha: Junio 16 – 20 (Lunes - Viernes)
Coordinador: Dr. Franco Biondi, fbiondi@unr.edu, (775) 784-6995
Aplicación: Por favor comuníquese con el coordinador para recibir más información.