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Center for Collaborative Research & Education

K-12 Science Initiative Brief

Secretary's Summit Goal 3: Improving Teacher Knowledge

South Carolina LASER Initiative

Initiated: 1998

Grade Levels: K-8

Location: South Carolina (statewide: all 85 school districts)

Primary Partners: DuPont, BMW Corp., Michelin North America, Carolina P & L

Number Affected: 450,000 students

Project Purpose

Goals: To replicate the DE ESI model in South Carolina (e.g., Florence and Camden) so that students in communities where DuPont operates achieve the level of competency in science required to become tomorrow's knowledge intensity employees and informed consumers of science-based products and services.

Primary Activities: School District Strategic Planning; Curriculum Selection; Materials Center Implementation; Teacher Professional Development; Reform of Pre-Service Teacher Preparation.

Project Summary

The South Carolina Region is one of 8 regional LASER partnerships nationwide for the reform of elementary science education. LASER is the outreach arm of the National Science Resources Center (NSRC) and is funded by a five-year grant from the National Science Foundation and by the Smithsonian Institution, the National Academies, and the 8 regional LASER partners. Through LASER, the NSRC organizes regional conferences and institutes to introduce school district teams to the NSRC's five elements of effective science reform and to assist teams in writing a strategic plan for K-8 science reform.

Project Accomplishments/ Results

1999: Co-Sponsored **LASER Building Awareness Conference.**

1999: Implemented **Kit-Based Inquiry Science in 21 school districts** (Pee Dee HUB).

2001: Co-Sponsored **SC LASER Higher Education Strategic Planning Institute.**

2001: **Inquiry-Based Science adopted** by South Carolina Department of Education.

2001: Formed **Pre-Service Teacher Preparation Consortium** (Winthrop University, the North Central Math HUB, and Catawba Technology Education Consortium). Bowater Corp. and Springs Foundation joined DuPont in funding.

2002: DuPont partners with **Clemson University's Call Me Mister** Program.

2002: Co-Sponsored **SC LASER Strategic Planning Institute.**

2002: **NSF grants \$160K to AOP HUB** to extend reform to grades 7-8 and to develop Science & Math to Go!

Forward Plans