

**MAITLAND P. SIMMONS MEMORIAL AWARD SUMMER  
INSTITUTE  
2017**

# **21st Century Science Connections : Real World Applications for the Classroom**

**Location: College of Saint Elizabeth, Morristown, NJ**

**Instructors: Dr. Eva Ogens**

Eighteen middle school teachers participated in the 2017 Maitland P. Simmons (MPS) Memorial Award Summer Institute held at Henderson Hall in the College of Saint Elizabeth, Morristown on July 17-21, 2017. As per the benefactor directives, this presentation was aimed at serving Science teachers from throughout the state of New Jersey. For the first time in the history of this NJSTA Standing Committee, the Institute was held in northern New Jersey.



Dr. Eva Ogens, Associate Professor of Math/Science Methods of Ramapo College of New Jersey led the workshop entitled "21st Century Science connections: Real World Applications for the Classroom". Eva researched, arranged and coordinated all of the academic aspects of this Institute. During the entire program, teachers were prompted to consider how each activity could be used in their classroom within the scope and sequence of an NGSS unit driven by an Anchor Phenomenon. College of Saint Elizabeth was the perfect site in which the Simmons Scholars could encounter a variety of learning experiences. The classroom set-up immediately adjacent to the laboratory was well suited to our particular activities and for a group our size.

Teachers participated in a field experience on Wednesday at Meadowlands Environmental Center where they engaged in activities and demonstrations learning how to integrate aspects of Engineering into their lesson units.

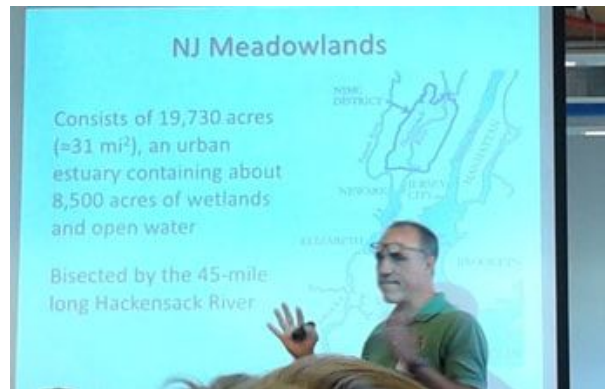
Classes began at 8 a.m. each day with a debriefing of the prior day and concluded at 4 p.m. after reflection activities. A continental breakfast was arranged and waiting as the Scholars arrived in the hallway adjacent to the classroom. Lunch was provided in the Saint Elizabeth cafeteria. While there, Scholars often chose to sit together in groups and seize the opportunity to enjoy their choice of meals while communing with colleagues. A variety of snacks were provided through the day for the participants.

NJSTA and MPS Committee members assisted and visited during the week. Christine Lijoi, our Chairperson and leader, provided the calm and guidance needed. She also made a

great give-away coordinator at the end of the Institute when she organized and packed up the materials of each activity for the Scholars to bring back to their classroom. Kathy Ernst joined and assisted us on Tuesday and Wednesday while Treasurer, Tom Smith and Committee member, Mitch Batoff, joined us on Thursday. Nancy Evans Bennett who visited on Monday, stopped in again on Tuesday along with NJSTA Co President-elect, Jim Messersmith. All were invaluable resources witnessing the magic and sharing an infinite pool of educational expertise with our Scholars. Finally, as the Institute concluded, Committee member and former MPS Scholar, Megan Stamer, who was also present on opening day, aided in posting resources and photos into an online Google page for all Scholars to remember. Megan is also helping to update photos to the MPS Facebook page.

Multiple sources of data indicate that the year's Institute was positively a success. The 2017 Institute met its goals as teachers gained skills necessary to select appropriate Anchor Phenomena through which lessons could be developed utilizing Science and Engineering Practices as well as Cross Cutting Concepts..

This entire team is to be congratulated for planning and organizing a timely program, aiding in the administration, AND providing the chocolate that helps fuel the deep thinking process.







Thank you for all of the great activities and resources that we can use to update our lessons. There is never enough time during the teaching year to collaborate with colleagues or think deeply about the lessons using appropriate Anchor Phenomena leading consistently to an NGSS dimensional mindset.  
-2017 Simmons Scholar”











***If you have additional pictures or resources to share from this event, please send them to [NJSTAwebmaster@gmail.com](mailto:NJSTAwebmaster@gmail.com).***