



**MAITLAND P. SIMMONS MEMORIAL AWARD SUMMER
INSTITUTE
2019**

3D Learning in Today's Science Classroom: Lessons that Develop Skills and Create Connections

Location: Rutgers University

Instructors: Patti Duncan



Seated (l to r) Tara Sain, Ann Marie Carrick, Nancy Emerick, Lynn Prosen, Laura Dunbar; Standing (l to r) Sandra Amato, Marisa Castronova, Christine Lijoi, Kathy Ernst, Michelle Greenberg, Patti Duncan, John Huppert, Patricia Wahlsten, Heather Engler, Marie Behnke, Cheryl Zanone, Anita Meelu

The 2018 NJSTA Maitland P. Simmons (MPS) Memorial Award Summer Institute was held at the Math and Science Learning Center (MSLC) on the Busch Campus of Rutgers University, Piscataway from June 25-29, 2018. This presentation served middle school science teachers from throughout the state of New Jersey. Expert educator extraordinaire, Patti Duncan, led an impressive MPS Institute entitled "3D Learning in Today's Science Classroom: Lessons that Develop Skills and Create Connections." During the entire program, teachers were prompted to consider how each activity could be used in their classroom while confronting the many challenges that such lessons encompass. Patti adeptly guided the teachers through an extremely well-orchestrated selection of hands-on and online activities that provided participants an abundance of new avenues for application in their schools.

This year's "Simmons Scholars" were presented with many raw materials and guidance for how to make numerous resources for the classroom activities. Patti clearly modeled how educators can create such tools in an economically feasible manner. Teachers were treated to an in-house visit by Beekeepers Rich and Jessica Wyble of the Weeble Wobble Honey Farm in Washington, NJ. These demonstrations and activities showed Scholars how they could integrate aspects of authentic and virtual field trips into their lessons. Teachers gained skills and familiarity of raw materials needed to develop lessons which utilize Disciplinary Core Ideas (DCIs), Cross Cutting Concepts (CCCs) and Science and Engineering Practices (SEPs). Of note, this group focused on SEPs of Asking Questions, Modeling, Arguing from Evidence, and Constructing Explanations.

Multiple sources of evaluation data verify that the 2018 MPS Memorial Award Summer Institute was more than just a success. It was a "great, motivating workshop"..."specifically designed for science teachers to improve their teaching strategies through the most current topics and using 21st century learning skills". One 2018 Scholar expressed, "This Institute was like being on Oprah's favorite things episode. For each activity or strategy we did, we had a takeaway to bring home. It was the most valuable PD I've ever been to!" This entire team is to be congratulated for supporting a student-centered program, aiding in the administration, AND ensuring that all who participated had evidence of an immediate gain from the initial investment of a week of their summer vacations.

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If you have additional pictures or resources to share from this event, please send them to NJSTAwebmaster@gmail.com.