

## ***Inquiry Based Instruction***

Given the broad range of topics teachers are asked to address in order to address district and state benchmarks in the content areas, it is increasingly difficult to find ways to address these issues while still giving students a broad picture of how to solve problems and investigate the world around them. Even more challenging, the resources commonly available to teachers and students do not promote this approach.

In this workshop series, we will address the concept of “inquiry-based” learning and instruction, through the examination of curriculum materials and activities that promote this student-centered approach to learning. This program is primarily for science teachers, through teachers of other subjects are invited to participate as well, so that we might look at interdisciplinary approaches to inquiry projects in the classroom. Our goal is to develop and implement inquiry-learning projects in classrooms, and to use strategies that promote engaged learning by students.

This will be offered as a 3 credit graduate level course from the University of Michigan School of Education (at a significantly reduced tuition rate) for up to 25 teachers from participating schools. Teachers electing this option will be required to create and implement inquiry-based learning projects in their classrooms, and document their teaching and changes in student attitudes and learning. These teachers will also be prepared to facilitate and implement programs within their own school focusing on inquiry learning strategies. Teachers will also have to participate in a set of online discussions and activities.

If more than 25 teachers indicate interest in the course, we will select teachers based on the following criteria:

- content area mastery
- stability of teaching assignment, and ability to facilitate programs in school
- distribution according to content area (first priority to science – half to 2/3 of class; with equal priority to remaining subject areas)
- experience with hi-ce curriculum (priority given to those who have not already participated in hi-ce or LeTUS professional development)
- geographic distribution

The course will take place at the Welcome Center of Detroit Public Schools, located at New Center One Building (W. Grand Blvd. and Third St.) in Detroit, from 8:30am to 3:30pm (with lunch break) on the following dates:

March 2 and 23, April 27, May 16, June 21, and September 21.

Course Instructor:        Stephen Best  
                                      Director of Professional Development and Outreach, hi-ce  
                                      4049 School of Education  
                                      University of Michigan  
                                      Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1259  
                                      Phone: 734-709-8904  
                                      e-mail: [sdbest@umich.edu](mailto:sdbest@umich.edu)

For more information about the course, contact Stephen Best ([sdbest@umich.edu](mailto:sdbest@umich.edu)).

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Educator Application

Educators wishing to participate in the Inquiry Based Instruction workshop series sponsored by the Southeast Regional Network of Michigan Middle Start should complete the following form, and mail or fax the form to the address at the bottom of the page by February 14. Participants accepted to the workshop series will be contacted shortly thereafter.

Name (Last, First, Middle Initial) \_\_\_\_\_

Address (Home) \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Current School \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_

Job Title/Position \_\_\_\_\_ Years in this position \_\_\_\_\_

Grade Level \_\_\_\_\_ Subject area \_\_\_\_\_

College degrees, college, and date (example: MA in Science Education, Wayne State, 2002):

Degree	Concentration	College/University	Year (of degree)
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Are you currently enrolled in a graduate program? (If so, state location and program) \_\_\_\_\_

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Teaching Certifications (include subject area and grade level) \_\_\_\_\_

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Previous Teaching Positions (include school, subject/grade, and years taught) \_\_\_\_\_

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Will you want to take this workshop series for graduate credit? \_\_\_\_\_

Please send to Michigan Middle Start, c/o Stephen Best, 4047 School of Education, 610 E. University, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1259 or FAX to 734-615-5245 (attention Steve Best).