

Archived Information

National Science Foundation Centers for Learning and Teaching (CLT) Program

Goal Area: Improving Teacher Knowledge, Building a Research Base

Summary: The K-12 Centers for Learning and Teaching (CLT) Program is a five-year comprehensive, research-based effort that addresses critical issues and national needs of the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) instructional workforce across the entire spectrum of formal and informal education. The need to replace a large number of educators who are expected to retire over the next decade is widely understood and recent studies indicate that many inadequately prepared educators enter the profession each year. Through a combined agenda of professional preparation; opportunities for teacher, administrator, and informal educators; and research, the CLTs address critical national issues.

Purposes: CLTs involve partnerships of PhD granting institutions, organizations with scientific, engineering and/or education missions and school districts. All CLTs must identify an overarching theme and address the following components: (1) Doctoral, post-doctoral and internships component; (2) Teacher/administrator education component through preservice and inservice programs; and (3) a research component. All three components must address the identified theme.

Accomplishments/Results: In addition to the individual project evaluations conducted by each CLT, there is an overall program evaluation that includes a qualitative component, a quantitative component and a program monitoring component that permits aggregation of data across the projects. Reverse Site Visits are held during each project's second year to identify strengths and weaknesses and determine future funding. All NSF projects are subject to external peer review, review by Committees of Visitors, and portfolio review.

Plans for the Next Twelve Months: A competition will be held in the spring of 2003 (NSF 02-038--proposals are due April 24 and preliminary proposals were required) Another competition will be held in 2004.