IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCES FOR SCIENCE TEACHERS AT THE DOWNEAST INSTITUTE

MAKE SCIENCE REAL, RELATABLE, AND RELEVANT FOR STUDENTS, EVEN IF SCIENCE ISN’T IN YOUR BACKGROUND.

LEAD AUTHENTIC, EXCITING RESEARCH PROJECTS AT SCHOOL, AND AT COASTAL LOCATIONS NEARBY.

HELP STUDENTS CARE ABOUT THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT THAT IS SO IMPORTANT TO OUR COMMUNITIES.

A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE

DEI’s Coastal Science Academy is a yearlong program with an intensive introductory workshop to help you incorporate scientific inquiry and methods into K-12 science curriculum, and increase confidence in STEM subjects. You will learn and apply DEI’s “Let’s Find Out” approach to promote student engagement in marine science, and to encourage critical thinking and environmental stewardship.
Immersion Workshop

Teachers selected for the Coastal Science Academy will receive four days of training at DEI’s coastal marine research facility and education center on Great Wass Island, in the Town of Beals. A stipend and meals are provided, and contact hours will be awarded. Accommodations are provided. Each Academy is limited to 20 participants.

**Daily Workshop Topics Will Include:**

- The scientific method
- Research ideas
- Experimental design
- Fieldwork
- Educator resources

**Learn To:**

- Design and facilitate scientific research projects
- Raise microalgae
- Select appropriate support systems for live culture
- Use field study to support research
- Use citizen science platforms to inspire and track future projects

The week will include a guided research project as experience in the discovery process that educators will facilitate the following year in their classroom.

**School Year Guidance**

DEI staff will help during the school year in the design and implementation of a research project for students. Support will be in the form of consulting and technical assistance and may include one field trip at, or facilitated by, DEI staff, such as hatchery tours, field work, marine science days at DEI, use of wet labs, and other activities to support projects. We can even visit if needed, as often as twice a month, to monitor experimental design and progress, data collection, and answer questions. Ongoing assistance will be provided by phone, email or other communications.

**“Let’s Find Out”**

Naturally curious, children quickly make observations and ask questions that can inspire an authentic research project. DEI’s “Let’s Find Out” method has been used successfully with students of all ages. Its foundation is that research answers questions to which no one know the answers. Teachers, scientists, and students embark on the exploration together, and make new discoveries together. In our experience, this dynamic resonates with students who see their teachers as partners on an exciting journey.

“Students of all grade levels become excited and invested in DEI’s Let’s Find Out approach, feeling like they are real scientists.”

-Lynn Alley, Jonesport Beals High

“Beals students have become better users of the Scientific Method including making a hypothesis, collecting data, and drawing conclusions through their DEI experiences.”

-George Crawford, Beals Elementary

**Interested?**

Email Colleen Haskell at chaskell@downeastinstitute.org.

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