

Overview

Project Tomorrow, the national education nonprofit group, is seeking to add a limited number of schools in January 2009, and new program schools in September 2009 to our critically acclaimed, "Science Docent Program" during the 2008-09 and 2009-10 school year.

The Science Docent Program has operated in the Saddleback Valley Unified School District since 1997. As a result of its success, this program has been targeted for national replication, and the expansion strategy will continue in Orange County during the 2008-09 and 2009-10 school years. Funding is secured for the development of the replication components including: online curriculum, program website, professional development, materials, and program administration.

Participating pilot schools must provide matching in-kind support.

Program Description & Benefits

This program provides high school students the opportunity to mentor and teach elementary school students in the classroom. The program:

- Increases the number of students entering the teacher pipeline.
- Increases the number of students who take an interest in science at an early age.
- Provides teachers with enhanced lessons and encouragement to improve their own teaching skills.

Participating high school students have the opportunity to:

- "Test-drive" teaching as a career.
- Gain great appreciation and understanding of science
- Learn 21st century skills
- Develop desire to continue post-secondary education
- Develop self-confidence

Why Participate?

Participating school(s) will receive the following:

- Access to the Project Tomorrow Science Docent High School Curriculum, online Lesson Plan Repository, program website, and communications/networking tools
- Professional development and networking opportunities for high school program teacher (16 hrs) and elementary school coordinating teachers (16 hrs/each). Stipends paid for participation
- Financial support for materials
- Professional services for program coordination, materials support, and program recruitment from a Project Tomorrow program manager
- Program evaluation including materials and an end of year evaluation report outlining the impact on student achievement, high school student career goals, and elementary teacher science proficiency
- Spring recognition program for participating high school students and teachers
- Opportunity for Project Tomorrow Science Docents to compete for targeted college scholarships

Requirements

Upon selection, the participating school and/or school district must agree to provide the following in-kind support to the program:

- High school science teacher for one class period
- Release time for elementary school coordinating teachers to attend planning sessions and recognition event
- Release time for high school science teacher to attend professional development sessions, program meetings and observe docents teaching class at least twice
- Administrative support for the program at the district, high school and elementary school(s)
- Access to students and teachers for evaluation purposes

**To learn more and/or to have your school considered for participation, please contact:
Laurie Smith, Director Research & Evaluation, at lsmith@tomorrow.org or 949 609-4660 ext 17.**