Science • Technology • Engineering • Math

STEM PBL Problem Based Learning for sustainable technology

FAQ: Costs

There is no direct expense to the schools or teachers for participating in this program.

The grant from the National Science Foundation covers nearly all expenses for both the high school and college partner participants. The two-day workshop expenses - travel, accommodations and most meals, are covered by the grant. There is no charge for the online course unless the participant wants to receive CEU or grad school credit; participants would pay for the credits themselves. Incidentals, such as internet access, are also the participant's responsibility.

FAQ: Stipends

Stipends are available for field-testing two STEM PBL Challenges between fall 2010 and spring 2012. A $500 stipend per Challenge (up to $1,000 per educator) will be paid upon submission of implementation reports.

FAQ: Alliance Partners

The purpose of an alliance is to create synergy in a geographic area so that High School students have a clear path to a college major in a STEM subject. The idea is to use PBL learning in STEM subject HS courses to get them excited about these disciplines, and then have the HS do events or projects together with the college, so the HS students are familiar with the school. The goal is to create a clear bridge between HS interest and college career training, especially for students traditionally underrepresented in STEM fields and first generation college students.

Alliances also creates a support network for the instructors in the region to develop professional relationships that support implementation of the Challenges, and offers a base for future collaborations. It also is a great recruitment tool for college programs in STEM subjects that have trouble attracting local students.

An Alliance Partnership needs at least two schools: a HS and a college (preferably a community college). Alliances can also be HS / CC / 4-year college. If space is available, multiple high schools can participate in one Alliance. The goal is to find a partner that you can work with over the next several years. Hopefully that association will continue even after the project ends.

To find possible partners in your region, you should speak with your department head and recruitment office to see if there are already relationships with certain schools in your area. Some states have a Tech Prep Coordinator, or a Technology Education Specialist, in the Department of Education who may be able to introduce you to technical education programs in your region. You can also use the internet to look up nearby schools and find places to which you can reach out. For high schools, best bets are focusing on math, science and technology departments, as well as office staff. For reaching out to colleges, focus on specific STEM program departments.