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Practicum in STEM Leadership

Leadership Project Proposal

The title of the leadership project (work in progress) will be: “Inquiring Minds Want to Know: Scientific inquiry resources for your classroom” For this leadership project, I chose option 1: Implement a professional development experience. Currently, the middle school teachers in my district are responsible for restructuring the middle school science curriculum. This includes an overhaul of our current curriculum to fit the new New York State Science Learning Standards (NYSLSS). Many teachers will need to create completely new units, and this PD seeks to help them start small by developing short activities where students are “doing science” at the middle school level. The PD will provide teachers with resources for introducing phenomena, examining authentic data, and making connections to real world experiences to include in their activities. These resources will be aligned to the new standards that they will need to adapt their curriculum to. My proposed audience includes the other teachers in my middle school science department (grade 6-8). There will be 5 teachers present in total. Each teacher teaches a grade 6-8 class consisting of 18-25 students. This project will demonstrate integration of STEM in the classroom by providing teachers with opportunities to create their own classroom activities from a selection of resources gathered from my Endeavor courses. Hopefully, the teachers will be able to utilize the resources provided to create lessons that include students observing phenomena, asking authentic questions, and collecting, examining, and analyzing data. There will be an emphasis on using evidence to draw conclusions. The lessons will either be adaptations of past lessons or new lessons aligned to the newly assigned standards from our curriculum restructuring. I will conduct a discussion with the teachers in our following curriculum meeting, and will also conduct a short survey for feedback and any further questions.