



Center for Precollegiate Education and Training

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Dear 2009 UF-HHMI ICORE Teacher:

We are looking forward to your participation in the 2009 ICORE program. We are really excited about hosting you -- a talented group of science teachers from across our beautiful state selected to be the University of Florida HHMI ICORE 2009 members. Don't hesitate to call or email us with any questions or concerns you may have.

Our two weeks in June will be intensive -- there won't be much free time during the day or in the evenings, so get lots of rest before you come!

In addition to updating your research knowledge and laboratory skills, the ICORE program goals include facilitating your efforts to translate what you learn during the program into appropriate instructional methods/materials (products) for your classroom and for the wider education of your community. Also, we will set aside time for professional development, for discussions of classroom issues, and for "sharing best practices".

In February, we will look forward to your return to UF to present your Action Proposal and results at JSEHS: Florida Junior Science, Engineering and Humanities Symposium. The symposium focuses on science, math, engineering, and their interrelation with the humanities. There is a speaker competition for 20 outstanding 11th and 12th grade high school students to present original research, with the opportunity to represent Florida at the national level and win up to \$20,000 in scholarships. Scientists will open their laboratories for tours and explain the goals of their research, demonstrate their methods, and discuss their careers as scientists. Leading scientists and engineers will also present lectures and lead discussions on current research. Additionally there is an opportunity for 9th and 10th grade students to speak. In your poster session, we want to show off our excellent ICORE science teachers to the other students and teachers attending symposium!

And now, some general information:

Program requirements/benefits: Please read through the attached program requirements/benefits page.

Sharing best practices: We ask that you share one of your "best teaching practices" at a 10 minute presentation for all teacher participants. Please submit them electronically (julie@cpet.ufl.edu) or hard copy to Julie by June 1. We will compile a teachers' manual to be distributed to all participants. Your best practice can be any lab, activity, or technique that gave fantastic results because the students enjoyed it and it accomplished the learning objectives you wanted. Novel practices are particularly appreciated by your fellow participants.

Schedule of events: The two-week summer institute will include many different unique opportunities as we focus on emerging pathogens. We will employ several biotechnologies, from PCR to ELISA and explore both academic and industrial sites. Researchers from across campus will be participating through short lectures, demonstrations, activities, and laboratory visits. An optional field excursion is planned for Saturday, June 20 with a chance to explore the natural beauty of North Central Florida. A general schedule is posted on the program website shortly (www.cpet.ufl.edu/ICORE). We will begin the program Sunday, June 14 at 5:00pm with dinner, introductions, and a general overview of the week. A detailed schedule will be provided at the official start of the program, Sunday, June 14.

Location: The location for our Sunday evening introductory session will be announced later. A map and directions will be mailed separately once parking permits have been issued. Our activities will take us to several areas of campus and around Alachua County. Additional maps will be provided during the program as needed.

Health Care: Each participant is responsible for his/her own health care needs during the program. Please bring personal medications, insurance card or blank insurance forms for emergencies. We can suggest the same Walk-In Clinic used for our other programs, but payment is each participant's responsibility. Please be aware that UF is a large campus, and there is considerable walking involved with the program. Please notify us of any health concerns so that we will be well prepared to assist you.

Academic Credit: You will have the opportunity to earn three UF graduate credits upon successful completion of all program requirements. More information about this will be given during the summer program. If you are interested in in-service points for the summer, please contact the Staff Development Supervisor in your school district. We will be happy to work with you to meet their requirements. Please note: we cannot award in-service points; this must be managed through your school.

Housing: Home for the week will be the Keys Residence Facility; all housing information is included in a separate document. The facility will be available for check-in after 3pm on Sunday, June 14.

Travel: Participants are free to travel during unassigned hours. It is requested, however, that you advise the Program Coordinator of your travel plans in case you need to be reached in an emergency.

In case you are wondering who “we” are:

Mary Jo Koroly, Director of the UF Center for Precollegiate Education and Training (CPET), is the Principal Investigator of the HHMI ICORE grant and also teaches in the Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Department in the College of Medicine. Julie Bokor, UF CPET Science Coordinator and ICORE Coordinator, handles planning and coordination of the ICORE program, from testing the laboratory experiments to arranging housing. There are other folks here to help you, but Julie or I can probably best answer any questions you may have before your arrival on campus and during your stay with us.

Again, we are delighted you are coming to UF.

Sincerely,

Mary Jo and Julie