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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **UF hosts summer program for science teachers** *Workshop will focus on aquatic systems in Florida*

This summer, the University of Florida is starting the fifth year of its Summer Science Institute program. From July 6 through 10, secondary science teachers will gather at UF for a Summer Science Institute workshop offered by the UF Center for Precollegiate Education and Training, known as CPET.

The Aquatic Systems: Emerging Problems and Creative Solutions program will highlight some of the most significant research on coastal and inland aquatic systems in Florida. It will examine the interconnectedness of water systems and emphasize the contaminants that affect human and environmental health, such as metals, endocrine disruptors, plant and animal toxins, and pathogenic organisms.

“We’re very excited to have the opportunity to work with teachers from all over the state,” said Mary Jo Koroly, the director of CPET. “It’s such a benefit to everyone—the UF faculty, the participants and the students they teach.”

The workshop includes an extensive amount of field work and bench laboratory activities. Participants will work alongside UF faculty in performing research, visiting labs and other facilities and attending talks by research and industry leaders. They can apply their experience to their curriculum in AP, IB, regular high school and advanced middle school science classes.

“This was an excellent way to learn more about environmental issues,” according to the written comments of a past participant. “The speakers came from a variety of backgrounds, the field activities were stimulating, the teachers were very willing to share ideas and the content was relevant.”

The 2009 Summer Science Institute is funded by the Lastinger Center for Learning, the Florida Space Grant Consortium and the UF Alliance. It is designed to provide science teachers with the opportunity to update their knowledge and laboratory experience by working with UF faculty and graduate students, performing authentic research and talking with industry leaders.

For more information, please contact Steve Everett at 352-392-2310, or e-mail him at [cpet@cpet.ufl.edu](mailto:cpet@cpet.ufl.edu). Julie Bokor, the program administrator, can also be reached at the same number or at [julie@cpet.ufl.edu](mailto:julie@cpet.ufl.edu). The UF Center for Precollegiate Education and Training can be found online at <http://www.cpet.ufl.edu>.

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The UF Center for Precollegiate Education and Training (UF-CPET) is a university-wide organization dedicated to fostering educational enrichment and forging research and Florida school partnerships by identifying, coordinating, extending or creating outreach programs that link secondary school teachers and students with UF in science, mathematics and technology.

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