Science Made for Teachers

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As a result of this grant and the efforts of the faculty, preservice teachers at Eastern Kentucky University receive college science courses designed specifically with the needs of elementary and middle school teachers in mind. What is unique about the program is that arts and sciences faculty who have been trained in the area of state standards, and current, appropriate teachings strategies teaches the courses.

Most faculty involved with the project received one three hour course release time to work on the project. The team met regularly and consisted of a faculty member in science education, special education, physics, chemistry, biology, earth science, an elementary education undergraduate student and a classroom teacher within the district. The education faculty served as consultants; sharing education standards set by the Kentucky Department of Education, appropriate teaching strategies, and technologies that assist teachers in the classroom.

The project has opened communication between the College of Education and the College of Arts and Sciences. Professors from both colleges work side by side in an effort to understand and meet the needs of future teachers of Kentucky. Currently data is being collected to analyze the effectiveness of the new program.

This session will share ideas for others interested in improving science courses for preservice elementary and middle school teachers.