

Content-Based Teacher Education

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New Mexico Tech, home to the Very Large Array, Energetic Materials Research and Testing Center, Langmuir Laboratory for Atmospheric Research, and other first class, nationally renowned research centers, offers teachers the opportunity to earn an advanced degree working side by side with the scientists of these institutions. The Master of Science Teaching (MST) Program emphasizes, not pedagogy, but hands-on experiences and content-based courses for teachers of all math and science disciplines.

Began in 1969 to address the needs of New Mexican science teachers, the MST Program has thrived and grown to address the needs of teachers in five states and two countries. Courses are delivered through a variety of methods – intensive two-week on-campus sessions, field experiences, laboratory research, independent projects, and distance delivery. On-line chat rooms for each course and a general science-teaching listserv promote discussion and solidarity among students. Two full time program staff members on campus provide advocacy and administrative support for the students.

The hectic nature of a teacher's life requires practical, useful experiences in their continued education. Through required curriculum development, joint research projects, and special programs, the MST Program strives to offer education teachers can immediately transfer to their classrooms. In essence, the students learn from the program as their teacher learns from the professor.

Through participation in this institutional session, conference-goers can learn more about New Mexico Tech's Master of Science Teaching Program. Selected course material, student work, special projects, and program outlines will be on display.