

VISTA MAGNET

MIDDLE SCHOOLNEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

December 4, 2007

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Sixth graders will video conference with students from a CSUSM science course

VISTA, Calif. – Undergraduate students from California State University San Marcos (CSUSM) will be video conferencing with sixth graders from Vista Magnet Middle School's (VMMS) on Wednesday, December 5, 2007 from 10:10 to 11:15 am and again from 1:10 to 2:15 pm. The CSUSM undergraduate students are part of a science class designed for educators.

The video conferencing event is part of a larger partnership between CSUSM and VMMS that aims to add to the advancement of VMMS students and their understanding in science and technology, while also helping CSUSM's education students prepare for their future careers. This specific video conferencing event on Wednesday will provide the CSUSM students with a unique opportunity to interact with current middle school students and give them some hands-on science teaching experience. And, for the VMMS sixth grade students, they will have a chance to ask the undergraduate students questions about science.

Karno Ng is a chemistry professor at CSUSM and the instructor for the science for educators course. Professor Ng has been working with two of the middle school science teachers from VMMS in order to plan and implement this video conferencing event. VMMS Principal José Manuel Villarreal is grateful for the collaboration between his staff and Professor Ng. "This will clearly be a win-win situation for the CSUSM and VMMS students," explains Villarreal. "There is no greater preparation for future educators than a firsthand teaching experience with students in a classroom. And, for our sixth graders, they get to use a cutting-edge technology to ask experts questions about science. I can't think of a greater way to begin this partnership between the two schools."

For more information about VMMS or the VMMS-CSUSM partnership, call VMMS
Principal José Manuel Villarreal at (760) 415-3468 or visit www.vistamagnet.com.

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