

# VISTA MAGNET

MIDDLE SCHOOLNEWS

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**COMMUNITY NEWS**

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## **VMMS 8<sup>th</sup> grade Science teachers complete summer camp at CSU San Marcos**

VISTA, Calif. – During the week of July 27, 2009, seventeen 8th grade teachers from: Vista Unified School District, San Marcos Unified School District, Potter Jr High in Fallbrook, Valley Center Middle School, Julian Charter School and Escondido Christian School took part in a teacher Science academy. They focused on the use of Innovative technology applications in science classrooms to engage students in 21st century experiences to enhance their learning of physics.

The iQUEST project is funded by a National Science Foundation grant received by Dr. Katherine Hayden and Dr. Youwen Ouyang, professors from California State University San Marcos College of Education and College of Arts and Sciences, under the category of ITEST (Innovative Technology Experiences for Students and Teachers). The project teachers were involved in videoconferences with scientists at Rochester Institute of Technology, interacted with Cal State San Marcos physics faculty and a graduate student from University of California, San Diego.

In addition, teachers learned how to use the open source software called Moodle, which provides an online environment for reflection and sharing of resources using digital tools that attract middle school student interests and engage them in activities that address National Education Technology Standards. This project focuses on preparing middle school students to enter STEM careers and prepares them as 21st century workforce. During the school year, teachers will receive additional training, participate in lesson study collaborative rotations to refine technology-enhanced lessons, and receive classroom support from experts including computer science students from Cal State San Marcos.

The final academy activity is a workshop on using Global Positioning Devices to explore application of the devices in middle school classrooms.

Some teacher comments:

"I would like to videoconference with other classrooms in other schools, cities, states and possibly countries."

"Loved the demos and lectures from the professors. The scope for use of all these technologies is so broad that I need to think how I might utilize all the resources available to me. I'm comforted to know that there is so much support for this digital immigrant."

"Going to the science department was GREAT! What a wonderful resource these Professors are to us!"

Prior to the iQUEST Summer Academy for teachers, 24 middle school students were invited to a one-week summer camp experience to engage them in science and technology investigations. These students will be mentors in their project classrooms in the coming year.

For more information or to visit the school site, [vistamagnet.com](http://vistamagnet.com), please call José Manuel Villarreal, principal of Vista Magnet Middle School, at (760) 726-5766.

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Teachers below are engaged in a lecture from Dr. Hayden

