

**Pennsylvania Governor's Institute for
Agricultural Sciences and Advanced Manufacturing Careers**

**Follow-up Report
May 30, 2003**

The Pennsylvania Department of Education and the Center for Professional Personnel Development in Career and Technical Education at Penn State University offered the Governor's Institute for Agricultural Sciences and Advanced Manufacturing Career at the Blair County Convention Center in Altoona, Pennsylvania, July 22-25, 2002. The Institute was available to all Pennsylvania academic and career and technical educators and administrators interested in exploring agricultural science and advanced manufacturing careers through standards-based curriculum development.

During the week participants attended many workshops and industry site visits to help them integrate the use of technology in their instruction and develop standards-based curriculum. The agenda was multi-faceted and included whole group sessions, repeated small workshops, small group projects and industry site visits that engaged all the participants. The final product of the Institute was a unit or project outline from each team of teachers using the process and teaching ideas presented during the Institute. From this final assignment, 32 unit outlines were developed and aligned with standards. They are available on the Penn State Workforce Education and Development website (<http://voc.ed.psu.edu>)

Overall the Pennsylvania Governor's Institute for Agricultural Sciences and Advanced Manufacturing Careers was an overwhelming success. Participants were satisfied with their experience, learned valuable and usable skills, and wanted to attend again in the future. The purpose of the follow-up survey was to elicit information on activities that Institute participants have done to incorporate academic, occupational, and workplace standards into the curriculum and suggestions they may have for follow-up activities.

For this follow-up evaluation, a total of 15 participants out of 68 responded to the email request for feedback, for a response rate of 22%. The questionnaire asked five yes/no questions and three demographic questions. Of the 15 returned questionnaires, one was returned with the note that the individual had had to withdraw before the Institute because of personal reasons. This left 14 usable questionnaires.

The demographic profile of the follow-up participants was as follows: Of the participants who responded to the follow-up emailed survey, 12 were male (86%) and 2 female (14%). Only two participants had less than a bachelor's degree, while five (36%) reported graduate degrees as their highest education level. The average teaching experience was 16.2 years with a low of 3 years and a high of 29 years. Results of the follow-up evaluation are shown in the attached Table.

One hundred percent of the participants felt their participation in the Institute increased their knowledge and understanding of a standards-based curriculum and they were able to develop standards-based curriculum units for their classrooms. Quoting one respondent, "I have members of my technology department along with myself constantly reviewing our various curriculum to the listed standards that were given to us at the last institute."

Thirteen of the fourteen respondents (93%) felt able to incorporate the teaching strategies into their lessons. Although only nine (64%) said they were considering attending another institute this summer, comments were added that it was because of scheduling conflicts not because they did not want to attend.

When planning Institutes, there is always discussion by the planning team whether teachers should be encouraged to attend with others from their school, or if individuals can benefit from the programs. Last summer, teachers expressed an opinion that it would be better to have more than one person from a school attend an Institute. Ten of 14 respondents (71%) still recommend that more than one individual per school attend an Institute together. One participant shared these comments:

“Personally I have been the only member of my school district to attend any of the Governor’s Institutes. I could see an advantage of two or more members of the same district in attendance. Splitting up into various study groups and taking different plant visitations would bring more diverse experiences back with them.”

In summary, based on this follow-up survey, evaluators believe that the Institute was a positive influence on teachers’ curriculum development activities when they returned to their classrooms. Several comments on survey forms include:

“These institutes have been well organized and provide excellent networking opportunities.”

“It was a really great learning experience and very enlightening in the area of relating academic standards to task/competencies.”

“Good conference.”

“The opportunity to share ideas and visit various industries and work places made the institute a true learning experience.”

“I enjoyed the institute and would look forward to attending another in the future. Thank you.”

Table

Follow-up Evaluation Results for Governor's Institute for Agricultural Sciences and Advanced Manufacturing Careers, 2002, n=14

Based on your experiences from the Governor's Institute, July 22-25, 2002:	Yes	No
1. Do you feel your participation in the Institute last summer increased your knowledge and understanding of a standards-based curriculum?	100%	0
2. Based on the skills you learned last summer, were you able to develop standards-based curriculum units or projects for your classrooms?	100%	0
3. Were you able to incorporate the teaching strategies you learned into your lessons?	93%	7%
4. Based on your experiences at last summer's Institute, are you considering attending another one this summer?	64%	36%
5. Would you still recommend that more than one individual per school attend an Institute together?	71%	29%
Demographics:		
1. What is your gender?		
Male	86%	
Female	14%	
2. What is your highest education level?		
65 Credits	1	
Vocational Instructor II	1	
Vocational Instructor II + Masters Equiv.	2	
Bachelor's Degree	5	
Master's Degree	4	
Master's Degree + 50	1	
3. How many years of teaching experience do you have?		
Mean years	16.2	
Range	3 to 29	

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July 22-25, 2002**

Participant Follow-up Questionnaire

Please return this Questionnaire to Dr. Mary Kisner by May 31, 2003. You may:

Reply to my email and answer questions right in the email and send.

OR Type answers to questions directly in this document, and attach to an email to marykisner@aol.com

OR Print out, answer questions, and fax to 814-466-2084

OR Print out, answer questions, and mail to Dr. Mary Kisner, 618 Lynnwood Drive, Boalsburg, PA 16827.

Contact Dr. Mary Kisner if you have questions! marykisner@aol.com or 814-466-7191.

Based on your experiences from the Governor's Institute, July 22-25, 2002, please respond to the following questions. (You may underline your response or type the answer after each question.)

1. Do you feel your participation in the Institute last summer increased your knowledge and understanding of a standards-based curriculum? (Yes or No)

2. Based on the skills you learned last summer, were you able to develop standards-based curriculum units or projects for your classrooms? (Yes or No)

3. Were you able to incorporate the teaching strategies you learned into your lessons? (Yes or No)

4. Based on your experiences at last summer's Institute, are you considering attending another one this summer? (Yes or No)

5. Would you still recommend that more than one individual per school attend an Institute together? (Yes or No)

Demographic Information:

1. What is your gender? (Male or Female)

2. What is your highest education level? (High School graduate, Bachelor's Degree, Master's Degree, Doctoral Degree, Other (please specify))

3. How many years of teaching experience do you have?

4. Any other comments you'd like to share?

THANK YOU SO MUCH! HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!