

SUMMER INSTITUTE FOR EDUCATORS SHAPING DYNAMIC TEACHERS

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Local educators are enriching their knowledge of their chosen academic discipline by participating in for-credit courses offered over the span of one week through a new initiative offered by Rivier College.

Last week, Rivier College launched a new education institute entitled *Passionate Teaching: A Summer Institute for Educators*. The institute offers three-credit courses in the social sciences, mathematics, English, biology, and education taught by top-notch Rivier College faculty and local educational administrators.

“We’re striving for excellence in teaching,” said Division of Education Chairperson Mary McNeil. “By offering programming such as this, which arms today’s educators with creative, fresh, and innovative approaches to their subject, we’re positioning educators to enhance their students’ skills so they can be the kind of problem solvers and analytical thinkers today’s world needs.”

The program offered two sessions, one during the week of July 11, 2011 and the other the week of July 18. Participants can take up to two three-credit courses, which include both classroom education and field trips.

Specific courses offered include a course in integrating local history into the teaching of United States History, the role of inquiry in the study of science, fostering a problem-solving approach to teaching middle school and high school mathematics, teaching novels, curriculum development, and educational practices in the language arts classroom.

This year, the institute has 90 participants, including those already working on a master’s degree at Rivier or those transitioning into teaching after a prior career in another field.

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“You’re learning to teach, and you experience what a week is like for a student,” said participant Jake Rubé, a Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) student at Rivier. “You put yourself in their shoes for a week.”

As part of the institute, the Division of Education is also hosting expert speakers to discuss various educational topics. On July 13, Lex Stomp, head of the teacher education department at the Windesheim University of Applied Sciences in the Netherlands, and Marlies Rijbroek, lecturer and consultant for modern foreign languages in the university’s education school, delivered a lecture on the structure of the Dutch educational system and how it compares and contrasts with the current American model.

“Those teachers that participated in this summer institute will leave here as more dynamic educators for the students they are teaching,” McNeil said.

Rivier College offers more than 60 associate’s, bachelor’s, and master’s degree programs. Registration for the fall semester is taking place now. Classes will begin August 29, September 6, and October 25, 2011. For more information, visit www.rivier.edu. ■

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