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Reading, Ecology and Math: Georgia Teachers Get Schooled

August 2, 2012



COE's summer Teacher Quality grant workshops and institutes gave teachers from a dozen Georgia counties concrete ways to engage their students during the new school year. Dr. Sally Brown and Dr. Sabrina Ross conducted an institute for Glynn County K-5 teachers to learn about reading theories, strategies for implementing the ELA Common Core State Standards while empowering students and reducing conflict in the classroom. Dr. Missy Bennett, working with Heather Scott from COE's Teaching and Learning, as well as other Georgia Southern faculty, worked with 18 science teachers from 11 counties as they explored the ecology of coastal Georgia's barrier islands, swamps and rivers. Dr. Chuck Hodges, Dr. Bob Mayes and other Georgia Southern faculty conducted a week-long workshop that in part showed Glynn County teachers how to use a local context to their lessons. The group visited the Georgia Ports Authority and Georgia Power's Plant McManus. This approach makes instruction more relevant and meaningful to students. Teachers participated in sessions on problem-based learning, Common Core State Standards for math, instructional design and action research.

A key component of each program is providing teachers with practical, user-friendly instruction and examples to take back to their classrooms, and continuing the link between faculty and participants through additional workshops and web-based interaction.

Picture caption: Glynn County teachers visit Georgia Power's Plant McManus as part of a workshop on how to give a local context to their lessons.