

Friday, June 19, 2009

Scholarships to help math, science professionals move to the classroom

Press Release

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OU scholarships to help math and science professionals start careers in the classroom

Rochester, Mich. – Starting next summer and continuing for three years, Oakland University will recruit 30 science, technology, engineering and mathematics professionals interested in putting their knowledge and experience to work in high school classrooms.

Thanks to an \$893,000 grant provided through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and administered by the National Science Foundation's Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program, 10 students per year will be able to enroll in OU's Master of Arts in Teaching program with their tuition and other expenses covered.

"I think this is a good example of how stimulus dollars are being spent to help people in a number of ways," said Mark Olson, an assistant professor of education and one of three university directors of the scholarship program.

Not only will the grant provide new career opportunities for highly-skilled professionals, including those who have been displaced by Michigan's troubled economy, but it will also help children and communities as a whole by improving the quality of math and science education in the state.

"This is the kind of crucial knowledge people are going to need in order for our region to recover and continue to develop economically," Olson explained.

Noyce Scholarship recipients will be able to complete their studies, a practicum and student teaching requirements in just 12 months. As a result, the first cohort will receive certification and be able to begin teaching by the fall of 2011.

To further enhance the preparation of high-quality teachers, Oakland has partnered with the Avondale, Hazel Park and Oak Park school districts, which will make exemplary teaching staff available to serve as teaching mentors for two years after students have earned their certificates and begun teaching.

"Preparing a teacher is really a partnership between the school district and the university," Olson said. "We see this as quite an important part of the program."

In exchange for accepting the scholarship, recipients will be required to teach in high-need districts for at least two years. At the same time, the grant provides opportunity to purchase equipment designed to help teachers improve instruction in those classrooms.

To learn more about the Master of Arts in Teaching program and the Noyce Scholarship opportunity, visit the SEHS Office of Professional Development Web site, call (248) 370-4192 or e-mail reed@oakland.edu.

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SUMMARY

OU will recruit 30 career changers interested in using their knowledge and experience to teach students the fundamentals behind today's technology-based society.

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