An exciting inquiry-based curriculum for middle and high school teachers

The Oregon Museum of Science and Industry will be hosting a free 7-hour professional development workshop on June 28, 2010. Teachers in grades 5-10 will explore an inquiry-based, five-lesson curriculum module and teacher guide that were designed to improve critical thinking skills.

The module uses the vector-borne Lyme disease and West Nile virus as models for student investigation of biodiversity and infectious disease ecology. Changing landscapes expose people to ticks and mosquitoes that may transmit emerging diseases. Students will explore the whys and hows of the spread of these current health concerns through innovative, standards-based classroom activities.

Each teacher will receive a kit that contains supplies and other resources to conduct the module’s inquiry-based activities in their classroom. Student teams collaborate to develop problem-based experiments based on their research on current issues in biodiversity, ecology and human health. They complete a real-life culminating task of designing an outdoor recreation and education center that minimizes human contact with infected ticks, mosquitoes and their host organisms.

Students will have the opportunity to conduct the following investigations:

- Identify proteins in a simulated blood test for canine Lyme disease
- Experiment with different plant compounds for inhibiting bacterial growth
- Solve problems collaboratively in the roles of various scientific disciplines

To sign-up, please contact Katie Keller at 503-239-7820 or kkeller@omsi.edu

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