

Shell-TRC Partnership



Brief Highlights

Since its commencement on February 2, 2005, the Phase II exemplary partnership between Shell and the Texas Regional Collaboratives for Excellence in Science and Mathematics Teaching has had the following achievements:

- Established the Louisiana Regional Collaboratives (LRCs), two regional P-16 partnerships within Louisiana linking universities with elementary and high school science teachers to provide sustained and high intensity professional development opportunities: 1. Northern Louisiana between Louisiana Tech University, Ruston, and Grambling State University, Grambling; and 2. South-Central Louisiana between Louisiana State University and Southern University, Baton Rouge.
- To date, the Louisiana Regional Collaboratives (LRCs) have served approximately 206 teacher leaders from 22 parishes who, in turn, have mentored and provided workshops to approximately 600 teachers from parishes across the state of Louisiana, hence, impacting the achievements of approximately 48,000 students. Sixty one percent of the teachers served are Caucasian, 38% are African American, and 1% Other.
- Served Louisiana teacher leaders from the following parishes: Caddo, Bossier, Webster, Claiborne, Bienville, Union, Jackson, Lincoln, Morehouse, Ouachita, Caldwell, Ascension, Iberville, Point Coupee, Baker, West Baton Rouge, Zachary, Orleans, Jefferson, St. Landry, Lafourche, and East Baton Rouge. These teacher leaders are providing outreach activities to teachers in parishes across Louisiana.
- Provided training in a variety of sciences including the Jason Project, Polymer Science (Recycling), Chemistry, earth sciences, GEMS workshops, The Private Eye, two-week Summer Institute on Designing Effective and Engaging Inquiry-Based Labs, and Shell/LRC NanoSCIENCE engineering and science.
- The LRC have organized Honoring the Teachers events to recognize teachers, engage policy makers and elected officials, reward Shell as a corporate partner, and showcase the partnership in media outlets and the community. Furthermore, the LRC have provided science fair mini-grants to encourage and excite students to pursue STEM careers.
- Forged communications with Tulane University, Xavier University, Sci-Port Discovery Center, LSU-Shreveport and Bossier Parish Community College to establish new Regional Collaboratives in Louisiana in the service of additional teachers in those regions.

The Texas Regional Collaboratives (TRC) with support from Shell and through its network of 36 Science Regional Collaboratives across Texas have served school districts, teachers, and students as outlined in the following data:

0	Total Districts	812
0	Total Schools	2,152 (Public: 2,035; Private: 77; Charter: 30; Alternative: 10)
0	Total Classroom Teachers	6,081
0	Total Students	272,522 (Elem.: 130,509; M.S.: 84,392; H.S.: 57,621)
0	School Poverty Levels	Over 61% Very High to High; and 67% Title I
0	Ethnicity of Students Served	44% Hispanic; 12% African American; 41% Caucasian; 3% Other

The Shell-TRC Partnership training activities included the following Professional Development Academies (PDAs):

0	Project WILD	Spring 2005
0	Learn and Serve	Spring 2005
0	GEMS (Great Explorations in Math and Science)	Summer 2005
0	Taking a Closer Look (Astronomy/Botany/Geology)	
	Field Experience to West Texas	Summer 2006
0	Grades K-8 Geosciences "Changes Over Time"	Summer 2007
0	Making the Connection/McDonald Observatory	Spring 2008
0	TXESS Revolution* (TeXas Earth & Space Science)	Spring, Summer, & Fall 2008
		Spring & Summer 2009 (planned)

Through a competitive process conducted by the Texas Regional Collaboratives staff, Shell funds supported the following mini-grants:

- Year 2005-06: Six Science Fair Grants and three Service Learning Grants to Collaboratives.
- Year 2006-07: Five Science Fair Grants to Collaboratives; five Science Fair Grants to districts; and three Service Learning Grants to Collaboratives.
- Year 2007-08: Three Science Fair Grants and three Service Learning Grants to Collaboratives.
- Year 2008-09 (planned): Will provide three Science Fair Grants to Collaboratives.

As a TRC Statewide Corporate Partner, Shell sponsored the following Honoring the Teachers (HTT) events in different regions of Texas and Louisiana, and Distinguished Teaching and Mentoring Awards at the TRC Annual Meetings, engaging legislators, policy makers, education leaders, and elected officials:

0	Seven HTT events in Texas	187 teachers honored
0	Three HTT events in Louisiana	72 teachers honored
0	Distinguished Teaching Awards	4 teachers awarded
0	Distinguished Mentoring Awards	4 teachers awarded

Academic Improvements/Indicators of Success: The TRC-Shell Partnership professional development, mentoring, and outreach activities have yielded the following data and accomplishments:

- o 2006-07 Teacher Content Knowledge: Pre-Test Mean Scores 61 vs. Post-Test Mean Scores of 82.
- o 2007-08 Teacher Content Knowledge: Pre-Test Mean Scores 52 vs. Post-Test Mean Scores of 67.
- o Regional Student Achievement Gain in Grade 5: TRC teachers of 84% vs. 66% for Non-TRC teachers.
- o Regional Student Achievement Gain in Grade 8: TRC teachers of 53% vs. 32% for Non-TRC teachers.
- Building capacity for the implementation of the 4X4 legislation through intensive high school teacher training in physics, chemistry, and geosciences.
- Engaging policy makers, public and higher education leaders, and the community in showcasing the contributions of Shell to building capacity in STEM education and careers in Texas, Louisiana, and potentially in other states that are of interest to Shell.

*TXESS Revolution: There are 106 teachers participating in the TXESS Revolution Earth Space Science PDAs. These teachers are serving a total of 11,572 students with the following ethnic representations: 1,120 African Americans; 7,733 Hispanics; 233 Asian Americans; 3,061 Caucasians; 25 Native Americans; and 35 Others