



Mary E. Hobbs, Ph.D.

Coordinator for Science Initiatives

Texas Regional Collaboratives for Excellence in Science and Mathematics Teaching

Center for Science and Mathematics Education

College of Education

The University of Texas at Austin

A History with the TRC

Mary takes great pride in her long history with the Texas Regional Collaboratives (TRC). As a middle school science teacher in Abilene, Texas, in the early '90s, Mary was a member of the Region 14 ESC Collaborative where she enjoyed many professional growth opportunities during the early years of the Texas Regional Collaboratives. She was privileged to attend the 2nd Annual Meeting of the TRC in Plano in 1994.

In January of 1998, Mary accepted the position of Science Specialist at Region 17 ESC in Lubbock and subsequently became Project Director for the TRC collaborative based there.

In 2005, after spending four years in Houston as Director of Science for Spring Branch ISD, Mary moved to Austin to become Coordinator for Science Initiatives for the TRC where she supports the work of science project directors and teachers statewide.

Biography

Mary Hobbs is a teacher, researcher, and writer with hands-on experience directing science curriculum and instruction for Pre-K through Grade 12. She has been a classroom teacher in private pre-kindergarten and elementary classrooms, but her 10-year public school career was spent teaching middle school science.

She earned a Bachelor of Science in Vocational Home Economics Education from Abilene Christian University, a Master of Arts in Science Education from the University of Texas at San Antonio, and a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction from Texas Tech University in Lubbock.

Mary is a former President of the Texas Science Education Leadership Association (TSELA). She holds memberships and presents regularly at conferences for the American Educational Research Association (AERA), the Association for Science Teacher Education (ASTE) and the Texas-based Conference for the Advancement of Science Teaching (CAST), among others.

Her current work with the TRC allows her to draw from her experiences with a variety of high quality, research-based curricula and instructional programs and use her professional relationships with nationally recognized leaders in science education to coordinate professional development for TRC statewide science programs.

Current Research Interests

Dr. Hobbs currently serves as Co-PI on two National Science Foundation funded programs. *Project ID: Instrument Development for Exploring the Professional Growth Continuum* is in its third and final year and looks at empowered teachers, examining their professional experiences while searching for patterns that may lead to a better understanding of teacher empowerment and teacher retention. *Building BLOCKS for Science* is a newly funded four-year NSF grant to explore what four year olds know and can do in science, an area where little previous research has been conducted.

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