March-27

Hello All,

Plans for the Climate Literacy summer workshop at Mississippi State University continue to move forward. The workshop is funded by the National Science Foundation and is offered by a partnership between MSU and TERC, a non-profit research and development group that supports K-12 math and science education. For more information about TERC, visit www.terc.edu

We have some more information to share with you, and we have a request that you respond to this e-mail with some information for us, so please read on and get back to us ASAP.

1. DATES AND TIMES

The workshop will run from 8:00 AM to 4:45 PM, Monday June 17 through Friday June 21. This includes a 45 minute lunch break, as well as short morning and afternoon breaks. We need to offer a 40-hour event in order to provide you with 4 CEU’s.

2. MEALS

A breakfast will be available in the workshop building before the 8:00 AM start each day, and lunch will also be provided. You will need to plan and pay for your own dinners. There are several restaurants quite close to campus.

3. WORKSHOP FOCUS

The focus of the workshop is climate literacy. What is climate? What are the complex Earth system processes that contribute to climate? What are the various time and spatial scales at which those processes occur? Some climate processes happen in a matter of seconds; others require thousands of years or more. How does Arctic sea ice influence climate thousands of miles away? This is an intensive program that covers a lot of material.

Climate change is not the focus of the workshop, but at this point in time, it is simply impossible to look at climate data and not be confronted with change. Some data you will see reveal the natural cycles of climate change that occur gradually, across hundreds or thousands of years, and some reveal the more abrupt changes that have been taking place across recent decades. Since climate change is a controversial topic for many, we will spend some time during the workshop sharing ideas about how to address the challenges that result when the message students hear at home, about any science topic, conflicts with the data they are studying in their classrooms.

4. ACCOMMODATIONS DURING THE WORKSHOP

Here are three possibilities:

A. You sleep at home (or elsewhere) and commute to campus each day.

B. You stay in an MSU dorm for free

The dorm is directly across the road from the building where the workshop will be held. You will have a private, air-conditioned room with all linens provided. Women participants will have their own private “wing” of the dorm, reserved for female workshop participants. (There are not enough men participants to promise a private wing.) There are shared bathrooms within your wing (no in-room bathrooms). More details will follow.

C. You make your own arrangements to stay in and pay for a room in a local hotel.

The program will reimburse workshop participants up to $50 per night for your hotel room expenses (5 nights max.). Reimbursement requires that you provide the necessary detailed receipts for your hotel stay, and will require up to 30 days for processing your request after you have submitted all documentation and necessary forms.

5. CHANGE OF PLANS??

The workshop is fully enrolled and we have a long waiting list of teachers who would very much like to attend. Let us know if your plans change and you will not be attending the workshop, so we can offer your space to the next person on the waiting list.

PLEASE RESPOND to this e-mail let us know if you wish to have a room in the dorm reserved for you.

PLEASE RESPOND to this e-mail to let us know if your plans have changed and you will not be attending the workshop.

Thank you,

Sarah Hill

EarthLabs Project

TERC (www.terc.edu)