



Looking for Educators Who Teach Earth Systems Topics to Youth in Grades 6-12 to Participate in Professional Learning and Research Activities

Place-Based Learning to Advance Connections, Education, and Stewardship (PLACES) is a NASA-funded program for educators who teach Earth Systems* topics to youth in grades 6–12.

Place-Based Learning to Advance Connections, Education, and Stewardship (PLACES) is a NASA-funded program for educators who teach Earth Systems* topics to youth in grades 6–12. This program utilizes WestEd's proven Making Sense of SCIENCE (MSS) teacher professional learning model to engage teachers in data-rich Earth Systems learning through the integration of NASA data sets, images, and resources with instructional activities/lessons. A goal of PLACES is to use a “placed-based” approach to develop “data fluency” among a diverse demographic of teachers, students, and places. Individuals with data fluency are confident and able to use and make sense of data, knowing when, how, and why to use data for a specific purpose such as solving problems and communicating ideas.

The PLACES program draws upon a “place-based” approach for promoting data fluency. In a place-based approach, learning is anchored in authentic engagement with local phenomena, physical landscapes, and connections to cultures and communities.

Anticipated educator benefits for participation include:

- Exploring instructional strategies to help students effectively interact with data
- Accessing datasets and visualization tools from NASA to use in your classroom
- Deepening your abilities to identify and address common student difficulties when making sense of data
- Expanding your knowledge and teaching strategies for utilizing placed-based approaches to support students' data fluency
- Connecting with other teachers who are passionate about using a place-based approach to expanding data opportunities to all students

* Earth Systems topics can include any in-school or out-of-school learning activities that focus on systems thinking related to earth processes (e.g., geology, climate, oceanic and freshwater systems, biological systems)

Overview

- **Who:**

Educators who are in a position to teach 6th–12th grade learners about an Earth Systems topic as part of in-school, classroom teaching or through an after-school or out-of-school time context

- **What & When:**

Summer Professional Learning

July 11–13, 2023

Community of Practice

September 2023–March 2023

Four 90-minute virtual sessions in collaboration with colleagues

- **Where:**

Pima Community College
Tucson, Arizona

- **Compensation:**

\$1250 for participation in all commitments (see next page)

Educators who work with youth who are Indigenous or recent immigrants and/or who are in rural settings are encouraged to apply.

We encourage applications from teams of 2 or more educators who will collaborate in the Community of Practice during the school year. Each educator needs to complete the application.

Details regarding commitments for participation are on the next page





Commitments for Participation

Attend a 3-day, in-person, summer professional learning

- Three days of professional learning in July 11-13, 2023 in Tucson, Arizona
- 1-2 hours of asynchronous preparation work
- Up to 20 minutes of homework and reflection after days 1-2 of professional learning

Participate in a Community of Practice

- Develop and/or implement a new lesson, or series of instructional activities, to teach an Earth Systems topic in a way that incorporates the strategies and tools presented in the professional learning sessions and makes use of NASA data, tools, images or other resources.
- Four 90-minute, virtual sessions with teaching colleagues from September 2023 to March 2024
- Three asynchronous learning modules (~2 hours each) as preparation to engage with colleagues in the virtual sessions

All teachers will also be asked to:

- Complete all necessary agreements and forms to participate (e.g., obtain any necessary permissions from your organization, sign a participation agreement, obtain photo release forms)
- Participate in professional learning feedback surveys and an online interview about your experiences



Photo by Allison Shelley/The Verbatim Agency for EDUimages

Interested in participating?

Complete this [online application](#)

If interested, please have applications submitted in early April. We will begin accepting participants on a rolling basis by mid- to late-April.

For questions and more information, please contact:

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