

NEWS RELEASE



For more information contact:
Sharla Woodrow
Fourier Systems, Inc.
512-266-4066
sharla@fourier-sys.com

For immediate release
Charlene Blohm
C. Blohm & Associates, Inc.
608-839-9800
charlene@cblohm.com

Texas Regional Collaboratives Use Mentorship Training Model to Inspire Excellence in Science Teaching

Partnership with Fourier Systems creates statewide model designed to improve elementary science achievement

AUSTIN, TEXAS (March 22, 2006) – In an innovative approach to professional development, the Texas Regional Collaboratives for Excellence in Science Teaching (TRC) is partnering with Fourier Systems to meet a large-scale goal of improving elementary science performance. By providing training along with materials, the TRC is giving the state's 125,000 teachers the confidence they need to teach science at a level that will increase achievement on the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) tests.

Thanks to a grant from the Texas Education Agency, the TRC has initiated a teacher training model that extends training beyond a one-time conference session. In partnership with Fourier Systems, each of the state's 34 collaboratives teaches a core group of trainees, who each return to their school community with the responsibility of mentoring other teachers. Additionally, Fourier Systems, an international leader in the development of data logging devices for the classroom, has provided each collaborative director with materials that allow teachers to immediately use and apply scientific concepts in the classroom.

Because the state's specific goal is to raise student achievement in earth science, Fourier Systems has provided the TRC with special training on its pocket-sized EcoLogXL data logger. By allowing elementary students to instantly measure and record environmental data that affects their everyday lives – such as temperature, light, humidity and sound level – EcoLogXL aids understanding in many earth science units, explaining such phenomena as the greenhouse effect and barometric pressure.

MORE

“We’ve felt that achievement on our statewide science assessments has not been as successful as it should be for two reasons: many of our elementary teachers simply don’t have the scientific training, and many schools haven’t necessarily worried about teaching science with so much of the NCLB focus centering on reading and math,” said Chris Comer, Director of Science for the Texas Education Agency. “But by providing professional development along with the added value of technology, we’re truly giving teachers the incentive to go back to the classroom and help kids conduct the hands-on work of a scientist.”

With more than 8,000 Texas teachers already trained to use the EcoLogXL units in circulation across the state, Comer says teachers are already experiencing student benefits. “One year from now, we expect many more of our elementary teachers to be more ‘tuned in’ to science, and see kids passing their fifth grade earth science objective on the state assessments.”

She also notes that the TRC plans to conduct a comparison of student scores for teachers who underwent training versus those who did not.

Beyond the products already donated, Fourier is continuing its partnership with the TRC by sponsoring TAKS training and offering significantly discounted science equipment. For more information, visit www.fourier-sys.com.

About the Texas Regional Collaboratives for Excellence in Science Education

The Texas Regional Collaboratives is an award-winning statewide network of K-16 partnerships that provide sustained and high intensity professional development to K-12 teachers of science across the state. This infrastructure of over 22 institutions of higher education collaborating with the Texas Education Agency, education service centers, school districts, and business partners, provides Texas science teachers with support systems to assist them in the implementation of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). Programs equip teachers with the knowledge and skills to engage students in meaningful science learning experiences that will improve students’ scientific literacy and inspire them to pursue science and engineering related careers. For more information, visit www.thetrc.edu.

About Fourier Systems, Inc.

Established in 1989, Fourier is a world leader in the manufacture and distribution of compact portable data logging devices and accessories for the education market. The company’s science kits continue to push the standards of science education higher, now in over 30 countries around the world. With the wide range of sensors, user-friendly software and relevant curriculum material, Fourier’s products demonstrate a commitment to high quality. Fourier has earned accolades both nationally and internationally, including the Worlddidac award for the EcoLog™ and ExperiNet™. For more information, visit www.fourier-sys.com or phone 866-352-6994.

###

EcoLog and ExperiNet are registered trademarks of Fourier Systems, Inc.