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## Telling our stories . . .

### Second year of transforming middle school math, science ed kicks off



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(July 6, 2009) The National Science Foundation program “Transforming Experiences—GK-12” kicked off the second year of a five-year grant with a successful orientation last week on the downtown campus. The grant funds eight full-time graduate students (residents) in math and science and pairs them with middle school math and science educators. The graduate students benefit by learning about the intricacies of student learning and pedagogy in K-12 education. The middle school teachers benefit by having graduate student assistance in their classroom for a year.

As part of the project, the residents and teachers have a faculty mentor from UC Denver who provides guidance, resources and assessment throughout the year. The groups of one mentor, one resident and one middle school teacher are called Transforming Experiences Learning Communities (TELCs).

The four-day orientation, led by Principal Investigator and Chair of the Department of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences Michael Jacobson, consisted of not only the typical lesson planning projects with roles and expectations

also included fun and educational activities such as “Speed Dating: 4 sci activities/4 math activities” and “Metaphorming the GK-12.” Metaphorming was an activity where the groups conceptualized and modeled their expectations for their working relationship for the year.



This year’s middle schools include Englewood Leadership Academy, Englewood Middle School, Creighton Middle School and Falcon Bluffs Middle School.

More information is available on the [GK-12 grant Web site](#).

Photos: Top, Englewood Middle School math teacher Miranda Price and resident Craig Tennenhouse work on their metaphorming project. At left is a group’s metaphorming model of a garden. The project description reads, “Planting the seeds of knowledge to bloom to their full potential, so that students can reach their dreams. On the journey there are many resources such as sun, torches of knowledge, and basic elements to achieve success.”

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