

Please Note: The information below is provided for reference. Applications for the 2016 academies are closed. Application information for 2017 will be posted in January. For more information, contact Juliet Crowell, AGI Education Programs Manager, at jmcrowell@agiweb.org

2016 Middle School Earth Science/STEM Teacher Leadership Academy

ExxonMobil Exploration and the American Geosciences Institute are pleased to announce that they will be holding the seventh annual Leadership Academy in Earth science and STEM for middle school science teachers in Houston, Texas, **July 17-22, 2016**. The program starts with a reception and dinner on the evening of the 17th and concludes at noon on the 22nd.

The Academy will provide teachers with Earth science content, hands-on activities, resources and field experiences that they can use with their students in the classroom and with their colleagues in professional development settings. The program will be residential in Houston, and travel, lodging and subsistence costs related to the academy will be covered by a grant from ExxonMobil. We have space for **28 participants**, and encourage teams of three or four to attend from each state or school district (although this is not a requirement).

Topics covered during the 40 hours of the workshop will include:

- Introducing Earth system science to students;
- Teaching Earth science with an emphasis on STEM and Science & Engineering Practices;
- Investigations to help students understand the Nine Big Ideas in Earth Science; (from the *Earth Science Literacy Principles*);
- Teaching the seven Energy Literacy Principles;
- Resources for learning and teaching Earth science (*K-5 GeoSource* website, *Investigating Earth Systems*, *Nine Big Ideas* and *Essential Energy Literacy Principles* videos, Earth Science Week Kits, and many others);
- The work of geoscientists in the energy industry;
- Using learning centers in classroom and workshop settings;
- Planning, conducting and evaluating successful Earth science workshops.

We encourage science supervisors and principals to nominate teachers for the Academy by the deadline of March 1, 2016.

We are looking for teachers who already are, or who have the potential to become science professional development leaders in their home school districts. Please send names and e-mail contact information for nominees to Laura Rios, Education Specialist, llm@agiweb.org. Please use the subject line "Middle School Academy Nomination".

A link to the online application form will be sent to each applicant. We will be asking the nominees to send in several items with their completed application form, preferably in an electronic format, including:

1. a **current curriculum vitae or resume** that includes their contact information, degrees, teaching and other work experience and any professional development training they have received and/or experience in conducting workshops;
2. a **letter of commitment** to attend the Academy, if selected;
3. a **letter of recommendation and commitment** from their principal stating that the teacher will be permitted to conduct professional development workshops for their peers'
4. information regarding **potential opportunities to conduct workshops** for other professionals regarding geoscience/STEM ideas, including those addressed at the academies.