

2016 K-5 Earth Science/STEM Teacher Leadership Academy

ExxonMobil Exploration and the American Geosciences Institute are pleased to announce that they will be holding the eighth annual Leadership Academy in Earth science and STEM for elementary school teachers in Houston, Texas, **June 19-24, 2016**. The program starts with a reception and dinner on the evening of Sunday, June 19th, and concludes at noon on the 24th.

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 all academy-related travel, lodging and subsistence costs will be covered by a grant from ExxonMobil. We have space for up to **25 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;
- Planning, conducting and evaluating successful Earth science workshops.

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

We are looking for teachers 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, American Geosciences Institute, at llm@agiweb.org. Please use the subject line "K-5 Teacher Leader Academy Nominee".

A link to the online application form will be sent to each candidate. We will be asking the nominees to send in three items with their completed application form:

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 interest** expressing why they would like to attend the academy;
3. a **letter of recommendation and commitment** from their principal or other school administrator stating that the teacher will be permitted to conduct professional development workshops for their peers within the next year.

We will be sending out more detailed information about travel and hotel in future messages to the teachers selected to attend.