



Friends of Detectives

Science Education Partnership Award

Summer 2004

Professional Development Workshop

The first all-day *Detectives in the Classroom* Professional Development Workshop was held on May 17, 2004, at Montclair State University (MSU).

Forty-five science, mathematics, and health teachers attended, from nine school districts that are members of the New Jersey Network for Educational Renewal, including Caldwell, Cedar Grove, Clifton, Livingston, Montclair, Newark, Parsippany, Paterson, and South Orange / Maplewood.

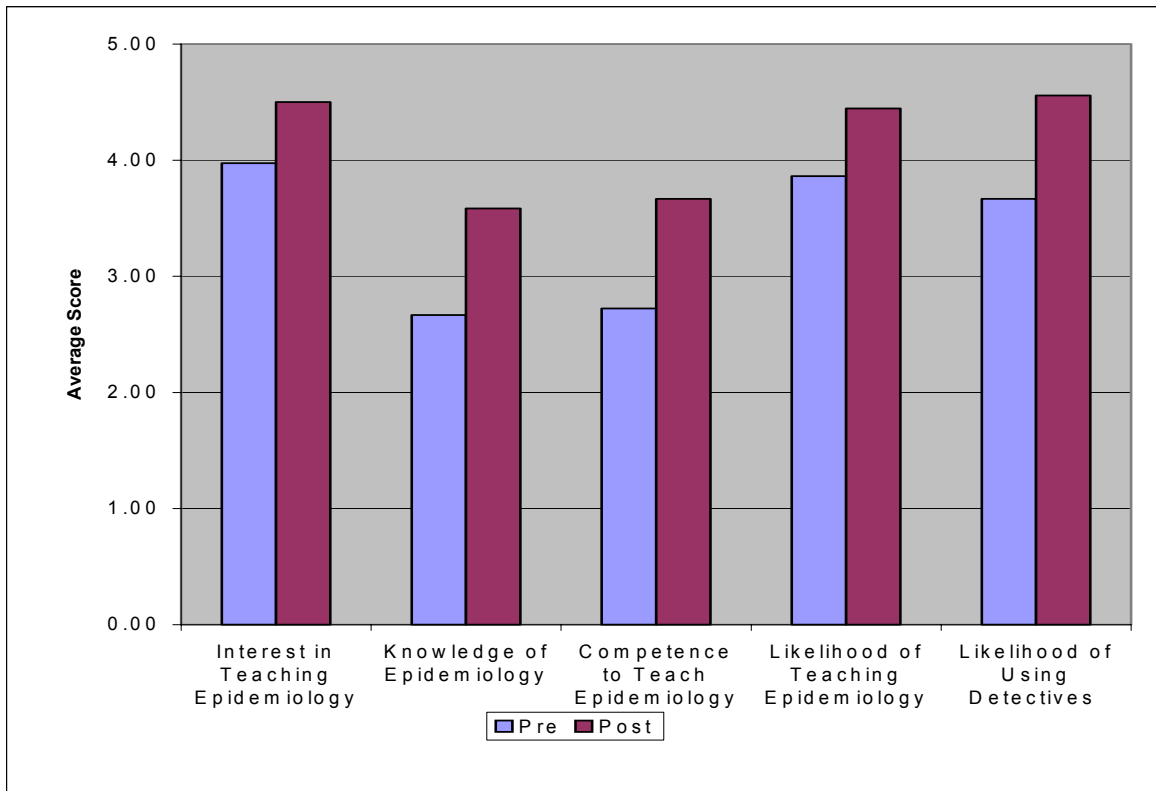
Participants were welcomed to MSU by Barbara M'Gonigle, Director of the New Jersey Network for Educational Renewal. The teachers were then oriented to the five enduring understandings and essential questions that form the pedagogical foundation for *Detectives*, and worked in *Epi Teams* to become familiar with nine of the curriculum's 34 investigations. Each *Epi Team* was mentored by a middle school science teacher from the Paterson School District who had field-tested the curriculum: Debra Falek (School 7), Paul Healy (HARP Academy), Donna Kerwin (School 21), Lucy Mankovich (School 4), Mary Mc Clam (School 12), John Super (HARP Academy), Lynn Tarant (School 9), and Veva Tronci (School 24).



DZ: Workshop participants hypothesize as to why some teachers are sick (DZ) while others remained healthy.

Participants were asked to answer five questions in a Pre- and Post-Workshop Questionnaire. The questions and the pre- and post-answers are presented in the table below.

Workshop Questionnaire Results ^{*}, ^{**}



* Scores are increasingly positive from 1-5

** For each question, average pre/post increases for individuals are statistically significant at $p < 0.01$ or lower

Guests included Esperanza Anastasio and Frank Botti, Science Resource Teachers from the Paterson School District. Also attending from the New Jersey Department of Education were Beth Ebler, State Science Education Coordinator, and James McCall, State Health and Physical Education Coordinator.

As suggested by Beth and James, this summer we will indicate on the website how each *Detectives* investigation aligns with National Standards for each of the disciplines included in the New Jersey Core Content Curriculum Standards.

Planning a Professional Development Workshop

If you are interested in scheduling a *Detectives in the Classroom* Professional Development Workshop in your school district, please visit the *detectives in the Classroom* web site at: www.montclair.edu/detectives. (Click on *Partnerships*, click on *Professional Development Workshops* in the left-hand menu, and click on *Workshop Preparation Checklist* and *For More Information*.)



Is there an association? Working in *Epi Teams*, workshop participants compare the risk of back pain among those who carried heavy backpacks versus those who did not carry heavy backpacks, and calculate a relative risk.

Next Professional Development Workshop

The next all-day *Detectives in the Classroom* Professional Development Workshop will be held on Friday, October 15, 2004, at MSU.

Interdisciplinary Working Group

Another aspect of our dissemination activities is to identify opportunities when teaching in other disciplines can enhance the *Detectives' Investigations*. A newly formed Interdisciplinary Working Group met for the first time on June 30th. The group, lead by David Keiser, from Montclair State's Department of Curriculum and Teaching, includes Betiana Capprioli, Social Studies teacher from the Paterson School District, Jim Aquavia, Language Arts teacher from Montclair High School, and Lynn Tarant, Science and Health teacher from the Paterson School District. Stay tuned for reports of the Working Group's progress.

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