For Immediate Release

MTRSD Awarded CITI Grant

Shelburne Falls, MA - The MTRSD is proud to announce that the Office of Program Development has been awarded a competitive grant from the Commonwealth Information Technology Initiative (CITI, http://www.citi.mass.edu/aboutciti/news.html) to fund forty hours of professional development for high school teachers to explore the use of Geographical Information System (GIS) software in their classes. Teacher teams are being recruited from schools who belong to the Technology in Education Partnership (TEP), a technology collaborative including schools from both Franklin and Hampshire counties. The class, to be taught by Professor Charlie Schweik of the Department of Natural Resources Conservation at the University of Massachusetts, will be held at Greenfield Community College (GCC) during the weeks of June 18 and June 25, from 8:00 until noon each day.

Teachers who participate in this grant program will receive:

1. Stipend for 40 hours of instruction
2. Mapping Our World, a book from ESRI, market leader in GIS software
3. One year license for ArcView 9.1 GIS software, from ESRI
4. Upon completion of the Community Atlas project (see below), a school site license for ArcView GIS software

Teachers’ responsibilities include:

1. Completing all classwork
2. Completing an ESRI Community Mapping project with their high school class in the fall (http://www.esri.com/industries/k-12/atlas/index.html)
3. Doing at least one presentation at their respective schools to introduce other faculty members to GIS capabilities
4. Attending a half day Franklin County GIS Conference at GCC in late fall where there students will present the work they’ve done for the Community Atlas project
5. Filling out the pre/post surveys and other paperwork required by the grant.

Interested teachers may contact David Greenberg at dgreenberg@mohawkschools.org

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