School of Education Awarded $3million National Science Foundation grant for science and mathematics teacher development

School of Education faculty Kathleen Davis, Sandra Madden and Barbara Madeloni, all of the Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies (TECS), Stephen Schneider from the College of Natural Sciences, and Paula Sturdevant Rees, School of Engineering, were awarded a $3 million grant from the National Science Foundation for a NOYCE Teaching Fellowship project: “Supporting STEM Teaching and Learning through Communities (S2TLC).”

The project responds to the critical need for middle and high school science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) teachers through a collaboration of UMass Amherst educators and researchers, mathematics and science administrators from Springfield, Holyoke and Greenfield public schools and Mahar Regional school district, and the Hitchcock Center for the Environment, a non-profit organization focused on the professional development of teachers and the education of youth in the sciences.

The five-year program will support an interactive community of 20 master teacher fellows and 20 teacher fellows with professional development, community support, licensure, graduate degree/certificates and salary supplements while they teach; the development of virtual and face-to-face communities of practice; the development of STEM content courses that integrate the use of cognitive technological tools to facilitate learning; and the revision and implementation of an initial licensure teacher program for secondary mathematics and science teachers to better ensure instruction and their retention in the profession with the overall goal of increasing student engagement and achievement.

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