



### Creative University-School Partnerships (CUSP)

Alpine	Montclair
Belleville	Orange
Bergenfield	Park Ridge
Clifton	Passaic Valley RHS
East Orange	Ridgefield
Englewood Cliffs	Rutherford
Franklin Lakes	Teaneck
Hackensack	Totowa
Hillsdale	Wayne
Leonia	West Orange
Little Falls	West Paterson
Lodi	MSU
Lyndhurst	

CUSP is a partnership of a research and teaching university (MSU) with a diverse group of school districts in Bergen, Essex, and Passaic counties. CUSP is a comprehensive project that addresses educational needs using research-based pedagogies.

#### CUSP Project Activities

- Summer Institute
- Distance Learning
- Content-based workshops
- Videoconferencing
- Adopt-a-professor
- Math & Science courses
- Assistance in achieving HQT status in math and science
- Classroom visiting teams

#### EVENTS AND IMPORTANT DATES

**Wednesday, September 28, 2005:**  
**CUSP Partners Meeting**, 9 am - 2 pm,  
BMS Center, Blanton Hall, RSVP and  
directions: 973-655-7753.  
Lunch provided

**Oct 12, 2005, NJSSI Strategic Planning Meeting**, BMS Center, 9 am - 2 pm

**Monday, October 24, 2005:** Dedication of BMS Center for Science Teaching and Learning, 9:30 am - 11:30 am

**Friday, October 28, 2005:** Open House Celebration for friends of PRISM, 4 pm - 6 pm, BMS Center Blanton Hall.

## CUSP GOALS OUTLINED FOR YEAR TWO

“Improve student achievement in mathematics and science, and maintain a system of recruiting and training current and future mathematics and science teachers,” are the goals of the NJ State Mathematics and Science Partnership (MSP) program. CUSP addresses the state’s goals by targeting the improvement of teacher content knowledge as part of the process of fostering more effective math and science teaching.

During the second year CUSP will continue its efforts to increase the content knowledge of teachers of science and mathematics to enable them to recognize the big ideas and major principals in both disciplines. By providing year round in-service programs on campus, in-district, and electronically, we endeavor to improve the delivery of science and mathematics classroom instruction by raising teacher awareness of inquiry-based science and standards-based mathematics methods and materials. CUSP content experts mentor, critique, and provide demonstrations of effective learning experiences with opportunities for feedback and reflection. Further, teachers are encouraged to achieve computer literacy through on-line courses. As in the first year, our current goals are designed to enable teachers of grades 5-8 to achieve Highly Qualified Teacher status in science and mathematics.

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## CUSP PARTNERSHIP EXPANDS

The success of CUSP 2004 - 2005 has inspired four new districts to become partners. As we begin our second year Alpine, Clifton, Belleville, and Bergenfield join our original 20 district members. According to a recent study of eighth graders by the National Center for Education Statistics, students in other industrialized nations perform better in math and science than their counterparts in the United States. The study reported that higher levels of achievement were demonstrated when teachers placed emphasis on experiments, practical investigations, and problem solving – all key components of an inquiry-based teaching methodology. As we continue to add partners and expand our services, the core mission remains to increase learning effectiveness and promote the values of constructivism, in concert with inquiry and problem-solving teaching and learning strategies.

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## GOOD NEWS

Congratulation to Dr. Beth Ebler, frequent PRISM presenter and CUSP mentor, for completing her doctoral studies in education. Beth, the former State Coordinator of Science, has accepted the position of Supervisor of Science and Social Studies for the Bergenfield School District.

CUSP Staff

**PRISM Office:**

Jacalyn Willis, Ph.D., Dir.  
Anna Mazzaro  
Helen M. Earles, Ph.D.  
Colette Killian  
Rick McCollough  
Timothy Macht  
Adam Roth

OUTREACH TEAM

**MATHEMATICS**

Nancy Schultz  
Maria Arrabito  
Irving Barocas  
Irwin Dolgoff  
Barbara Krukar  
Danielle Nix  
Karin Rupp  
Kimplani Tanella

**SCIENCE**

Yolanda Maldonado  
Anna Mazzaro  
Elinor Semel  
Jacalyn Willis

**CUSP**

Creative University-School Partnerships  
PRISM Office  
Montclair State University - CSAM  
Bristol-Myers Squibb Center  
Blanton Hall - Atrium  
Montclair, NJ 07043

**On the CUSP** is a vehicle for sharing program plans and events. Your contribution to **On the CUSP** is important to us. Share your school's successes! Submissions should be identified by the district, school, principal, teacher(s), and date of event.

Send submissions to: [PRISM@mail.montclair.edu](mailto:PRISM@mail.montclair.edu)

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

On October 24, CSAM will celebrate the opening of the Bristol-Myers Squibb "Center for Science Teaching and Learning." Funded by a facilities grant of \$500,000 from the Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation, the 5-room center houses PRISM (Professional Resources in Science and Mathematics), a network of programs designed to improve teacher preparation in mathematics and science.

In the 2004 - 2005 academic year, PRISM provided professional development in inquiry-based approaches to more than 700 teachers in 48 school districts. I am pleased that the new operations and facilities grants provide recognition of the successful 10-year track record of PRISM. The Bristol-Myers Squibb Center allows us to build on our successes, acquire new resources, add additional programming, and expand to more school districts.

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## OUTREACH TEAM SERVICES EXTENDED

Irwin Dolgoff has joined the Mathematics Outreach Team. The outreach team staff members visit classrooms of teachers in partner districts to respond to specific requests for instructional assistance. These visits include observation, critique, demonstration, lesson planning, resource selection, and discussion. In addition to regular class visits, outreach staff will conduct mini site-based professional development workshops. Math Outreach Team Leader, Nancy Schultz, will schedule grade-level and topic-specific professional development workshops for middle grades mathematics teachers. Call the PRISM office at 973-655-7753 for additional information or to speak with Mrs. Schultz.

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9 am - 2 pm***