

ASSET Inc. Institutes

Institute for Inquiry

Immerse yourself in a personal inquiry experience with ASSET's foundational Institute for Inquiry. During this 5-day institute, teachers reflect on current teaching practices, develop strategies to infuse inquiry into teaching to improve student learning, and examine the use of process skills and questioning. During the first three days, you will explore hands-on, minds-on activities matched to the learning goals of the institute. You then return for two additional days to share and reflect on classroom practice. Teachers will walk away from this institute with a plan to implement effective teaching strategies to reach all learners and make students better thinkers.

2 CPE credits or 30 Act 48 educational activity hours

Environment and Ecology RiverQuest Institute:

Human Impacts on Freshwater Ecosystems:

Come and enjoy an experience aboard RiverQuest's new green boat Explorer! As you travel Pittsburgh's rivers and explore Nine Mile Run Creek at Frick Park, you will participate in a variety of field experiments and activities that will deepen your understanding of fresh water ecology, biology and chemistry, and help you better utilize scientific inquiry as a powerful teaching strategy in the classroom. This 5-day Institute for K-8 teachers focuses on making detailed observations, generating student questions, forming investigable questions, planning and conducting guided and open inquiry investigations, forming evidence-based explanations, and using purposeful notebook strategies.

This Institute is designed and delivered in partnership with RiverQuest, a nonprofit river-based educational organization that operates a fleet of floating laboratories on Pittsburgh's North Shore.

2 CPE credits or 30 Act 48 educational activity hours

Foundations for Teaching Inquiry Math Institute

Advance your understanding of student comprehension when math is taught using an inquiry approach. Based on the information found in *How Students Learn Mathematics In The Classroom* (developed by the National Resource Council), teachers will explore the importance of addressing misconceptions, creating a balance of conceptual and procedural awareness, and engaging students in metacognition. Through hands-on experiences, reflections, case studies and research, teachers will examine how to identify math tasks that engage all students and learn how science and math can be integrated to support deeper conceptual knowledge. Best practices for teaching math, including the use of math notebooks, will be incorporated.

2 CPE credits or 30 Act 48 educational activity hours

Note: to fully benefit from the learning community experience, districts are encouraged to register teams of two or more teachers for ASSET Institutes.

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Institute for Assessment

In order to meet the differentiated learning needs of students, teachers begin by addressing the questions:

- *Where are the learners?*
- *Where do I want learners to go?*
- *How can I help the learner get there?*

With a focus on formative assessment, IFA participants will:

- learn the differences between summative and formative assessment with regard to purpose, form and use
- construct a framework of knowledge about the characteristics of formative assessment and formative assessment cycle
- investigate five formative assessment strategies that promote the use of evidence of student learning to inform instruction
- work within a learning community framework to implement an action plan that integrates formative assessment strategies into their classroom practice

2 CPE credits or 30 Act 48 educational activity hours

Science and Literacy Institute

Research and practice suggest that student achievement is improved when literacy skills are practiced in engaging contexts. Through this 5-day institute, participants will maximize opportunities to link reading, writing and oral discourse. Designed for teachers of grades 3-8, participants examine their own classroom practices and explore the use of effective strategies to develop comprehension of science content. Teachers actively work to integrate grade-level informational texts into their classroom practices. Participants analyze and discuss the authentic uses of reading, writing and conversing to support inquiry-based science learning.

As a resource to teachers participating in this institute, an ASSET library has been established to provide teachers with literacy resources and a growing collection of content, standards and strategies that directly tie into the modules.

2 CPE credits or 30 Act 48 educational activity hours

