

Leadership for Integrated Middle-School Science (LIMSS)

LIMSS was funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences (IES) to develop a teacher leadership program for middle school science teachers. Dr. Robert Potter, CSL Associate Director and Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, was the Principal Investigator (PI) for the project. Ms. Pam Caffery, Middle Grades Science Supervisor for Hillsborough County Public Schools, and Dr. Dana Zeidler, Professor of Science Education in USF's College of Education, were Co-PIs.

The project developed and implemented a three-year professional development (PD) program to build a cadre of 30 Teacher Leaders in 10 middle schools in Hillsborough County. After two years, LIMSS' Teacher Leaders planned and facilitated a four-day summer institute for their science colleagues (Second Generation Teachers) and mentored these science teachers at their schools to implement inquiry-based science and increase student achievement in science.

By the end of the grant in February 2012, LIMSS' Teacher Leaders received extensive PD in leadership skills and effective inquiry-based science instruction, delivered through 18 days of summer institutes, 18 workshop days, 1525 hours of collaborative team learning, and classroom modeling by a LIMSS Resource Teacher. LIMSS' Second Generation Teachers participated in a four-day