



## Advancing Biology Education through Online Professional Development: A New York State Research Study

### Teacher Consent Form

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has contracted the Education Development Center (EDC) to conduct a study in partnership with PBS TeacherLine New York and the Buffalo PBS affiliate, WNED. The goal of this study is to learn more about what teachers gain from online professional development and whether it impacts student learning.

As part of this study,

- Teachers will complete an online professional development course in either summer 2008 or summer 2009, which will take up to 45 hours over 7 weeks. Teachers will not be able to choose the course or summer in which they take the course as it will be assigned by lottery.
- Teachers will take two assessments, one before and one after the course.
- In the academic year following the course, teachers' Living Environment students will take two brief assessments, one at the beginning and one at the end of the school year. The assessments will consist of questions like those on the Living Environment Regents Examination and will cover genetics and evolution concepts.
- Teachers will complete a survey at the beginning and end of each school year.
- Teachers will assist the research team in obtaining appropriate consent from students' parents/guardians.
- The research team will assist teachers in obtaining the necessary administrative approval to participate.

In recognition of the time and effort teachers will contribute to this study, they will receive a stipend ranging from \$200 to \$600, based on yearly tasks, for each year of participation in the study.

All information obtained during this study will remain confidential. On all study documents, your name will be replaced with an identification number and the only document containing both pieces of information will be contained in a password protected file accessible only by principal research staff. When the results of this data are presented, only aggregated data will be included.

As part of this study, you cannot privately enroll in "Teaching High School Biology", "Teaching About Genetics", or "Teaching About Evolution" through either TeacherLine or Teacher's Domain.

Your signature indicates that you have read the information provided above and agree to participate in this research study. Your participation is strictly voluntary and you can discontinue your participation in this study at any time.

If you have any questions or concerns about this study, please contact Roshni Menon at [ABE-NY@edc.org](mailto:ABE-NY@edc.org) or (212) 807-4233. If you have any questions or concerns about your rights as a participant, please contact the Human Protections Program at [HumanProtections@edc.org](mailto:HumanProtections@edc.org) or (800) 225-4276, Extension 2971.

Thank you.

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Name (please print or type)

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Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number

**Please print and mail to Roshni Menon, ABE-NY, 96 Morton Street, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, NY 10014 or fax to (212) 633-8804**

