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SDE holds data analysis literacy workshops for Idaho math teachers

(BOISE) – June is a big month for collaborations between the State Department of Education and Idaho higher education to help math teachers come up with new, effective ways to teach thousands of Idaho children.

On June 25-28, SDE will hold the third annual Modeling and Data Analysis Literacy (MODAL) professional development project at Boise State University, with four days of SDE-funded workshops taught by BSU professors. And earlier this month, Lewis-Clark State College hosted an SDE-funded Learning Study Conference for 100 math teachers called Supporting Productive Struggle. The conference featured international lesson-study expert Dr. Akihiko Takahashi as keynote speaker and offered two live lessons with local students.

“Through collaboration with Idaho’s institutes of higher education, the Idaho State Department of Education is able to fund research-based professional development opportunities that connect Idaho educators to regional support that builds productive teaching and learning experiences in Idaho’s classrooms, which will in turn increase overall student achievement,” SDE Math Coordinator Nichole Hall said.

More than 100 math teachers across the state, grades 6-12, have signed up for the upcoming MODAL Institute and will receive travel support plus an additional stipend for those who live 60 or more miles from the Boise State campus. There are specific breakout sessions that align to the teachers’ content focus, such as calculus, statistics, algebra and geometry.

Led by Dr. Michele Carney and Dr. Joe Champion of Boise State, the institute includes sessions on Curve Fitting, Expressions and Equations, Storytelling with Data, and Bivariate Data and Linear Modeling. A fifth workshop will be offered online in July, focusing on Students’ Reasoning about Functions.

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Reporters, editors: Reporters and photographers are welcome to attend next week’s workshops, held in Riverfront Hall (old business building) at Boise State University. Call Kristin Rodine, 208-332-6807