



D45 The 2004 Advanced Forensic Science Educators Conference

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After attending this presentation, attendees will be encouraged to offer Forensic Science Educational conferences in their communities; informing high school science and mathematics teachers of the value of utilizing forensic science scenarios to teach basic science principles; and encouraging high school students to study science and mathematics by introducing forensic sciences into their lesson plans.

This presentation will impact the forensic community and/or humanity by encouraging Academy members to offer Forensic Science Educational conferences in their communities

To explain the 2004 Advanced conference for high school science and mathematics teachers. This five-day conference will expand their forensic science knowledge and provide them with 10-14 classroom lesson plans that can be immediately used to introduce the forensic sciences to their students.

In 2000, the Third International Math and Science Study (TIMSS) was released. It reported US student achievement in the area of science and mathematics knowledge at the conclusion of 4th, 8th and 12th grade. Forty-four countries participated in this study. US students in the 4th grade were in the top quartile of the study. Those students steadily fell behind their international peers. By the end of 12th grade, U.S. students ranked in the lowest quartile of the study group.

In 2001, the Academy partnered with several universities to introduce science teachers to the forensic sciences. The initiative's goal was to establish the Academy as teachers' primary source for high quality forensic science information and education and to increase US students' interests in math and science. Two Forensic Science Educators Conferences were conducted in St. Louis and New York City. A third is scheduled in October 2003, at the University of Texas-Arlington. The two conferences that were held in 2002 provided more than 200 teachers with introductory information about many of the forensic science disciplines. These three-day conferences included presentations and workshops that assisted the teachers to utilize forensic science disciplines to entice students to study math and science. Additional conferences are scheduled in 2004 for Hawaii and Louisiana.

Teacher evaluations revealed that the conferences were extremely helpful and that their classes were increasing in enrollment. Many teachers reported that they had required a pre-requisite science class. This strategy has led to increased enrollment in introductory science courses in their schools.

With scholarship-funding from the St. Louis-based Saigh Foundation, an Advanced Conference will be conducted at Saint Louis University School of Medicine July 19-23, 2004. This five-day conference will provide three stages of instruction to teachers. The first two days will provide introductory information to teachers who have no forensic science background. The next three days will provide experienced forensic science educators with new information taught by Academy members and nationally recognized, veteran high school forensic science teachers who have successfully pioneered this effort in their own classrooms. Details of this advanced conference will be provided during the presentation.

Science and Mathematics Teachers, Advanced Educators' Conference, Forensic Science