**DO YOU LOVE TEACHING GEOGRAPHY?**

**DO YOU WANT TO SHARE YOUR IDEAS WITH FELLOW TEACHERS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES?**

**DO YOU WANT TO BECOME A STAR TEACHER?**

**Here is an opportunity that you do not want to miss!**

**Project Description:**

Project Geography Online (Project GO) will provide Texas teachers with the ability to access free online professional development in geography. Four new programs will be developed for our online professional development series, “Geography: Teaching with the Stars” (www.geoteach.org). Instead of bringing the camera into the classroom, this new video series will focus on four professional development workshops led by teacher leaders in geography. This is your chance to be a Star teacher and share your favorite teaching strategies and pedagogies with fellow teachers across the state and nation.

Four interdisciplinary teaching modules were developed and will be the focus of Project GO (water resources, tornado alley, urban heat islands, and precision agriculture). Each module contains three to four lessons and is constructed as a problem-based learning scenario in which students use geographic and scientific knowledge, math, and geospatial technology to solve real-world issues. The geospatial technology included is simple but useful, including Google Earth, Google Maps, and ArcGIS Online.

The project will bring teacher leaders together at **ESC Region 20 in the evenings** to review the four teaching modules and discuss different teaching strategies and pedagogies they would use to teach the modules. The interactions between the teachers will be videotaped, edited, and made available on the project website in four separate professional development programs. These online programs will be used by a second group of teachers to measure effectiveness and usefulness at a later date. The modules will be available online for any teacher to access at any time to gain valuable professional development in geography.

**Recruitment Description:**

Teacher Leaders: We will be recruiting **six** geography teachers (6th or 9th grade) to be considered as teacher leaders. Being a teacher leader signifies that the teacher (1) has experience in teaching geography, (2) has a variety of teaching techniques and pedagogic strategies they would like to share with other teachers, (3) is comfortable with incorporating technology, especially geospatial technology (i.e. Google Maps, Google Earth, ArcGIS Online, MapQuest) into their curriculum, and (4) normally takes the lead at their school.

*Responsibilities*: If chosen as a teacher leader, there will be a **mandatory creative pre-production meeting** to go over the expectations of the development workshops. During the workshops, teacher leaders and project staff will work with the modules and discuss different ways they would use them to guide classroom teaching exercises. The teacher leaders will not only provide ideas of how to teach the module, they will also suggest extensions or modifications to the lesson that they would recommend for different learning styles. This will occur over four different sessions, called *development workshops*. Each development workshop will focus on one of the four modules. The workshops will be videotaped, edited, and produced into an online professional development program, one for each module. Teacher leaders will also be requested to attend the *utilization workshop*. After the workshops, teacher leaders will be asked to participate in a focus group. They are also asked to implement one of the modules in their own classroom, and will receive a follow-up survey.

*Time and Stipend*: $1,500 stipend will be awarded. This stipend is to cover their time for attending and participating in the prep session, five workshops, and any follow-up research protocols. Teachers will also receive CPE credit hours for their participation in the workshops.

Workshop Participants: We are also recruiting **24** **geography/social studies teachers** to attend a utilization workshop to be held at ESC Region 20 at a later date to pilot the online professional development program and provide feedback.

 *Responsibilities*: The 24 teachers will use the videos and website and comment on their effectiveness, usefulness, and feasibility of use. The website will include teacher resources, such as lesson plans, background information, reading materials, handouts, graphic organizers, etc. During this workshop, the six teacher leaders and project staff will be present to immediately respond to any comments or critiques.

 *Time and Stipend*: Each of the 24 teachers will receive a $300 stipend and CPE credit hours to attend the one-day utilization workshop and participate in the follow-up research protocols.

**Tentative Schedule of Activities:**

ONGOING – Application due

 TBD – Teachers will be informed to set up an interview

TBD – Interviews will take place to select teacher leaders

TBD – Teacher leaders will be selected and contacted. At this time, they will receive workshop materials

TBD – Creative Pre-Production Meeting to go over expectations and logistics

TBD – Development workshops held at ESC Region 20 in the evening

TBD – Utilization Workshop

TBD – Follow-up research protocols

If interested in this opportunity, please fill out ALL of the information on this form. You may either type or handwrite. If typing, check boxes [ ]  can be checked by double-clicking on the box. Please send finished applications to GCGE.GEOED@TXSTATE.EDU

|  |
| --- |
| Contact Information |
| Full Name: |  |  |  | Date: |  |
|  | Last | First | M.I. |  |  |
| School Information: |  |  |
|  | School Name | District |
|  |  |  |
|  | Street Address |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  | City | State | ZIP Code |
|  |  |  |  |
| Phone: |  | Email: |  |
|  |  |  |  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Teaching Experience** |
| Current Teaching Responsibilities: |  |  |
|  | *Grade Level* | *Course, if applicable*  |
|  |  |  |
| How many years have you been a teacher? |  |
|  |  |  |
| How many years have you taught Social Studies? |  | How many years have you taught Geography? |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Technology Experience** |
| Do you use technology in your classroom? | Yes[ ]  | No[ ]  |  |  |  |
| If yes, list the technology you use:  |  |
|  |
| Do you use geospatial technology? | Yes[ ]  | No[ ]  |  |  |  |
| If yes, what geospatial technology do you use? (i.e. Google Maps, ArcGIS Online, Bing Maps) |  |
|  |
| I am comfortable using geospatial technology in the classroom. | Strongly Disagree[ ]  | Disagree[ ]  | Neutral[ ]  | Agree[ ]  | Strongly Agree[ ]  |
| How frequently do you use geospatial technology in your classroom? | Never[ ]  | Rarely1-4x/year[ ]  | Occasionally5-8x/year[ ]  | Frequently9-12x/year[ ]  | Very Frequently13+x/year[ ]  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Professional Development Experience** |
| In 2016, how many professional development workshops did you attend? | None[ ]  | 1-2[ ]  | 3-4[ ]  | 4-5[ ]  | 6+[ ]  |
| How often do you receive professional development in social studies content? | Never[ ]  | Rarely[ ]  | Occasionally[ ]  | Frequently[ ]  | Very Frequently[ ]  |
| How often do you receive professional development in geography, specifically? | Never[ ]  | Rarely[ ]  | Occasionally[ ]  | Frequently[ ]  | Very Frequently[ ]  |
| How do you receive professional development? (Not just for CPE credit) Check all that apply | In-person Workshops[ ]  | Searching Online[ ]  | Webinars[ ]  | Talking with Peers[ ]  | Reading scholarly articles[ ]  |
| Rate these in order of preference: 1= most likely to do 5= least likely to do | In-person WorkshopsChoose an item. | Searching OnlineChoose an item. | WebinarsChoose an item. | Talking with PeersChoose an item. | Reading scholarly articlesChoose an item. |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Other** **You may also attach a copy of your resume**  |
| Current Membership to Professional Organizations: |  |
|  |
|  |
|  |  |
| Anything else you may want to add about your experience as a teacher: |  |
|  |
|  |
|  |  |
| Are you currently working closely with the Texas Alliance for Geographic Education? | Yes[ ] No[ ]  |
| **Commitment to Project GO** |
| Are you interested in attending this professional development opportunity and be a part of Project GO? | Yes[ ]  | No[ ]  |
| If yes,  | I would like to be a **teacher leader** for Project GO and participate in the development and utilization workshops. | Yes[ ]  | No[ ]  |
|  | I would like to be a participant in the utilization workshop and pilot the online materials ONLY. | Yes[ ]  | No[ ]  |
|  |  |  |  |
| If no,  | I am interested in receiving the materials once they go live. | Yes[ ]  | No[ ]  |
|  |  |  |

Please send finished applications to GCGE.GEOED@TXSTATE.EDU