

Abstract Submitted
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**Practical Application of Research in Science Education (PARSE)
– A New Collaboration for K-12 Science Teacher Professional
Development**¹ ANDREW ZWICKER, Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory,
JOSE LOPEZ, JAMES CLAYTON, St. Peter's College — A new collaboration
between PPPL, St. Peter's College, the Liberty Science Center, and the Jersey
City Public School District was formed in order to create a unique K-12 teacher
professional development program. St. Peter's College, located in Jersey City, NJ,
is a liberal arts college in an urban setting. The Liberty Science Center (LSC) is
the largest education resource in the New Jersey-New York City region. The Jersey
City School District has 28,000 students of which approximately 90% are from pop-
ulations traditionally under-represented in science. The new program is centered
upon topics surrounding energy and the environment. In the first year, beginning
in 2009, 15-20 teachers will participate in a pilot course that includes hands-on
research at PPPL and St. Peter's, the creation of new curricular materials, and
pedagogical techniques. Scientists, master teachers, and education professors will
teach the course. In subsequent years, the number of participants will be signifi-
cantly expanded and the curricular material disseminated to other school districts.
In addition, an outside evaluator will measure the educational outcome throughout
the project.

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