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Quick News - Headlines - Events - Outreach - SDSC

# GA Plasma Institute 2000 to Feature SDSC Lab Day for Teachers

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO — This summer, 12 educators will participate in a multi-day workshop in San Diego that will cover energy issues, gaseous-plasma science, and fusion technology. Aimed at junior high and high school science teachers, the Plasma Institute 2000 will study small-scale plasma behavioral characteristics. This will expose the teachers to the study of the fourth state of matter and how to use this knowledge to enhance classroom science education. The workshop, hosted by General Atomics (GA), is a two-week course held June 26 - July 11 in San Diego, California, and will feature a day at SDSC on June 28, as well as a day of hands-on work at three different labs at the UC San Diego Jacobs School of Engineering.

"This is the first of two years that we will hold this workshop under our DoE grant," said GA Education Consultant Patricia Winter. "It's really a great opportunity for the teachers involved. The projects they study and build will be theirs to keep for classroom use."

The 12 teachers attending the course—from various schools in southern California and elsewhere—will participate in a combination of lectures, discussions, and hands-on building projects. One of the building projects, for example, will be for each teacher to create a cloud chamber, which they will then be able to keep for their own classroom use. Plasma Institute participants will earn two units of physical-science credit from San Diego State University. The number of participants is kept relatively small so that the teachers will have an optimum amount of interaction, particularly one-on-one work with the scientists and engineers, as well as with each other.

The day at SDSC will include talks by Kris Stewart, director of the Education Center on Computational Science and Engineering, an NPACI partner at San Diego State University; Rozeanne Steckler, SDSC principal scientist and head of SDSC's Science Enrichment Programs; and SDSC Senior Principal Visualization Scientist Mike Bailey, who is also a collaborator in the Science Enrichment Programs. The topics will be: computational science resources on-line, computational chemistry, and scientific visualization, respectively.

"Closer ties between university faculty and the middle and high school teachers is needed to ensure that our students are kept up to date on what is possible, as well as probable, in the next few years," Stewart said. "It's important for the San Diego Supercomputer Center to host this activity and share resources."

The Plasma Institute 2000 is the first of a two-summer workshop funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy. The Institute is coordinated by Rick Lee, manager of GA's Fusion Education Outreach Program. For more information on the Plasma Institute 2000, please contact GA Education Consultant Patricia Winter at pat.winter@gat.com. —*AV*

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