Dear science teacher,

Thank for you interest in our program.

We have two major goals: elevate geology teaching in high schools and help students earn college credits for passing a high school geology exam.  We have a modest start at six high schools. About 500 students have taken the test in the last 10 years and about 70% pass.  We have obtained agreements to award credit from CMU, EMU, GVSU, Hope College, LSSU, NMU, UM Dearborn, WMU, and Wayne State. Calvin College and MSU are close. UM is aware but moving slowly.  A passing score is worth four college credits, a value of at least $1,600 in college tuition.

We recently received an NSF grant to expand our program and teachers/schools are joining.  Ideally we are seeking schools with high diversity and the class will be taught by a teacher with an Earth science or geology major and a Masters in science education. If you don’t quite fit these criteria you can still participate but we cannot offer the NSF funds for summer training and materials. However, we can seek alternative ways of helping you prepare and supplying your classrooms.

We can share syllabi from other high schools and help you develop one that works for your school. Topics are materials, volcanoes & earthquakes, plate tectonics, rivers, glaciers, and coasts. We have study guides, teacher resources, and just compiled folders of practice questions.  Next we’ll build teaching resources for maps. The exam itself is commonly given in the spring. It has four parts: about 75 multiple choice, several short answer, a rock & mineral test, and a map skills test. Most students need about four hours. The test is the same as we use in the introductory college course.

I am glad to meet you at MSTA or come to your school to meet with you and/or your principle. Every teacher and school is a bit different but we are glad to work with you and make this happen.  For starters, tell us about your training/certification, what you teach now and at what level, the number and diversity of your students.

Thank you for your interest and we look forward to meeting you.

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