C. Abstract:

This is a middle school mathematics professional development partnership between the East Baton Rouge School System and Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge. University faculty, assisted by an experienced teacher trainer associate, will provide a minimum of 120 hours (20 days) of content development and instruction for 30 middle school mathematics teachers (35 in years two & three). A site coordinator who has both university and high school teaching experience will provide additional academic year support. The program will begin with a 60 hour (10 day) summer institute that will be offered in conjunction with summer school, using teaching opportunities as an integral part of the training. Between September 2004 and May 2005, seven days of follow-up workshops will be offered on Saturdays, as well as nine monthly two-hour after-school action/study group meetings (three days) under the direction of the project director and the university personnel. Each participant can receive three hours of graduate credit upon successful completion of the program.

In addition to the summer school embedded workshops and intensive follow-up for all participants, substantial additional professional development is provided for a small group (three) of able and motivated teachers, who may earn three additional hours of graduate credit and who will eventually qualify as assistant workshop leaders.

Participants will strengthen mathematics content knowledge according to areas of need as identified by a pre-test, by student performance on state criterion and norm referenced tests, and by the core ideas from the Louisiana State Frameworks and the Grade Level Expectations.