C. Abstract:

This is a middle school mathematics professional development partnership between the Iberville Parish School Board (IPSB), Louisiana State University, and Southern University. University faculty, assisted by an experienced teacher trainer associate, will provide a minimum of 120 hours (20 days) of content development and instruction for 28 middle school mathematics teachers for each of three years. Priority will be given to teachers from Iberville. If some spots are unfilled, additional participants will be recruited from the West Baton Rouge, Baker, Zachary, Ascension, and Pointe Coupee School Systems. Two site coordinators will provide intensive 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. Seven 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, 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.