



March 1, 2004

Aloha!

It is our sincere pleasure to inform you of our second bi-annual StarTeachers Exchange Program that Gemini Observatory will be offering to six teachers from Hawai'i and Chile in 2005.

Gemini Observatory is sponsoring and organizing a teacher's exchange between selected educators from the Gemini host communities and sister-cities of Hilo, Hawai'i and La Serena, Chile. The purpose of this exchange is to provide a unique "laboratory" for a learning/cultural experience for both teachers and their students via a two-week exchange visit and Internet-based network videoconferencing. The teachers will be able to live within their host communities and interact with others while working with the children to stretch their cultural boundaries well beyond the four walls of an ordinary classroom.

In 2003 Gemini Observatory's inaugural StarTeachers program exemplified what can be achieved through international scientific cooperation and the ability to connect geographically distant learners. We plan to duplicate this again in 2005 by providing a venue for the exchange of ideas, questions and pedagogical techniques.

Our selection process for participating teachers will be based upon a formal teachers application that will assess the educator's experience, enthusiasm, innovation and plans for integrating scientific and cultural content into actual classroom lessons.

The participants must be able to meet the following qualifications:

- 1) Have (or be able to obtain) a valid passport
- 2) Be a current classroom teacher
- 3) Provide recommendation/support letters from principals and administrators
- 4) Have personal medical coverage
- 5) Be willing to take up to five days of your Professional Improvement/Personal leave through the DOE
- 6) Be willing to take a two day change of duty station through the DOE
- 7) Plan classroom coverage while your exchange partner from Chile is in Hawai'i as well as prepare extensive lesson plans for teaching in Chile
- 8) In the event of illness or unexpected leave of absence, have a replacement teacher to assist while the Chilean teachers are visiting your school.



The exchange program will include airfare, meals, hotels, and cost for a substitute for the extra days the personal leave/change of duty station will not cover. Spanish fluency is not required, a translator will be provided when needed.

Our expected departure date from Hawai'i is March 24, 2005 with a return date on April 9, 2005. Our Chilean teachers anticipated dates in the Hawai'i classrooms will be from October 17-29, 2005.

If you are interested in being considered as a participant in the StarTeachers Exchange Program, please submit a resume along with the attached application.

The timeline will be as follows:

June 1, 2004	Deadline for receiving applications
August 1, 2004	Selection and notification of six selected finalists
September 15, 2004	Interviews with six finalists
October 15, 2004	Notification of selected teachers

Finally, we would ask for all teachers to understand the commitment level that this international teachers exchange requires. Numerous hours are needed to plan the activities while in Chile and Hawai'i, and to continue to support the program once the exchange has been completed.

Please feel free to call me at Gemini Observatory, 974-2603, with any questions you may have regarding this application. We sincerely believe this is an opportunity of a lifetime for those selected.

Aloha and Mahalo,

Janice Harvey
Education and Outreach Office



Application for StarTeachers Exchange Program 2005

Name:

Address:

Valid Passport: Yes/No

Phone:

e-mail Address:

School/Principals Name:

School Address and Phone:

Grade(s) you are currently teaching:

Subjects you teach:

Please answer the following questions on a separate page in essay form, maximum 1,000 words.

- What is the main reason you would like to participate in this exchange program?
- Have you spoken with your principal and he is aware of the commitment required if you are selected? Will the school and other teachers be willing to work with you on your program?
- Have you taken any classes or been involved in any programs focusing on astronomy/science education?
- What special projects/programs have you initiated at your school that reflect your commitment to science education or cultural awareness?
- How would you use this experience to enhance your existing curriculum?
- What type of projects could you initiate as a result of this exchange?
- Tell us a little about yourself, including interests and hobbies, etc.

This application is due by June 1, 2004, along with a copy of your resume. Please send both to Janice Harvey at the address below. If you are selected as one of the six finalists, we will call you by August 1, 2004. Interviews will take place on or about September 15, 2004.