

# Developing a Statewide Content Area Teacher Network through Communities of Practice

US Department of Education, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education  
Academic Improvement and Teacher Quality Programs: Title IIA, University/School Partnership (USP) Program

Start date 12/01/06

End date 06/30/08

## Principal Investigator SUSAN J. LENSKI

Phone: 503-725-5403

Email: [sjlenski@pdx.edu](mailto:sjlenski@pdx.edu)

Web: [www.teachers.ed.pdx.edu](http://www.teachers.ed.pdx.edu)

## Research Team

Micki M. Caskey

Swapna Mukhopadhyay

Ron Narode

**Purpose:** The focus of the Content Area Teacher Network will be to develop communities of practice that include teacher candidates, inservice teachers, administrators, and university faculty who have an interest in incorporating reading and writing in science, mathematics, social sciences, language arts, and other subjects in order to improve student achievement in literacy and the content areas. The Content Area Teacher Network will be an actual and virtual meeting place for teachers to share effective practices.

**Method:** Teams of teachers in high-needs schools will meet as communities of practice to (a) identify the texts that students read in order to learn the subject, (b) work with consultants to identify discipline-specific reading strategies, (c) develop instructional materials, and (d) conduct classroom research to determine the effectiveness of the instructional materials. The teachers will be supported through onsite consultant visits, video or audio conferencing, a face-to-face meeting at a literacy symposium, and a website entitled, [Content Area Teachers Network](#). In addition to the website, information about the project will be disseminated at national and regional conferences.