Title: Refining and Examining a Collaboratively Taught Earth Science Course for Future Middle School Teachers

Principal Investigator: Lisa Martin-Hansen, Associate Professor, MSIT.
lmartinhansen@gsu.edu, 404-413-8413
Co-Investigator: Chris Atchison, Assistant Professor, Geoscience
catchison@gsu.edu, 404-413-5789

Executive Summary
The Natural Science Course NSCI 3002/7002 is in its third year of collaboration. The professors are working to teach earth science and chemistry content within inquiry-based learning cycles (explore, explain, apply). A new geoscience professor is joining the course allowing for this team to enhance the experiences and overall effectiveness of the course and to measure them using both quantitative and qualitative methods.

Major Goals of the Project
1. Revisit the core content of the course and alignment with the Georgia Performance Standards for earth science. Make adjustments in content focus accordingly.
2. Obtain additional curriculum to enrich the learning cycles (the way content is approached through explore, explain, apply) within the course.
3. Conduct research focusing upon student learning gains and application to the earth science classroom (for those students who are also currently in corresponding teaching assignments or practica).

Research centers upon student learning gains, connections between the course content/activities and impact on students’ teaching as described by the student teachers themselves, and the instructors’ negotiation of the collaborative teaching process. Findings will be disseminated through proposed papers and later conference presentations.