

UA Sky School ACES

Action for Climate Equity and Sustainability

Teacher Professional Development in
Climate and Environmental Sciences with
a Focus on Social Justice

Seeking 4th - 6th grade teachers
for the 2021-2022 school year cohort



TUCSON UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT



Agnese Nelms Haury Program
in Environment and Social Justice

Deepen your understanding of climate change and related environmental challenges in Tucson and Southern AZ, along with accompanying social justice issues. Build your content knowledge, create engaging science lessons, and spearhead a student-driven sustainability project addressing a need at your school or in the surrounding community.

- Open to 4th – 6th grade teachers in TUSD
- Teams from the same school are encouraged to apply
- Selection will begin August 23rd, 2021 and closes once all openings are filled

For more information:

- Application / details can be found at <http://skyschool.arizona.edu/aces-2021-2022/>
- Questions? Contact us at UASkySchool@gmail.com

The ACES Professional Development program is a partnership between TUSD and UA Sky School that offers teachers an opportunity to build both content and pedagogy skills. You'll deepen your understanding of climate change and related environmental challenges, and the associated social justice issues created or worsened by climate disruption. Content will provide a place-based study of these issues, focusing specifically on the effects in Tucson and Southern Arizona. You'll be supported in the creation of engaging science lessons and use PBL strategies to spearhead a student-driven sustainability project in order to impact the school or wider community. Previous projects can be seen at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iB8IRIpdwms&list=PLsGtRu390HymFC1BccqytpLS2q-TzRdml>.

Benefits:

- Gain a solid understanding of the 2018 Arizona Science Standards and how to implement 3D teaching
- Be supported to develop engaging science lessons that incorporate reading, writing, and math
- Utilize place-based teaching and a social justice focus to build relevance in your students' lives
- Learn about large-scale and local climate issues from researchers at UArizona and local organizations
- Connect with education and community leaders
- Paid professional development (\$25/hour for all workshops) and up to 50 hours toward recertification

Commitment:

- Attend 9 online half-day Saturday workshops (9 am – 12:15 pm) from September to April and complete all associated work (~1.5 hours per workshop; we use Google Classroom). Each workshop will include a session focusing on science content, and another session on STEM pedagogy.
 - September 18
 - October 23
 - November 20
 - December 11
 - January 22
 - February 19
 - March 26
 - April 23
 - May 7
- Attend up to 3 in person, outdoor field excursions for hands-on learning: November 6, December 4, and February 5 (Make-up day scheduled March 5th in case of inclement weather any of the other days)
- Implement science lessons in your classroom that you develop during the workshops
- Lead a sustainability project developed with your students to benefit your school or local community
- Share your lessons and project with other educators and the community

Quotes from past participants:

- This ACES class has taught me about doing science with the end goal of students making a personal connection to the phenomenon.
- I loved all of the presenters. I learned so much that I was sharing articles with people who are not even involved with education.
- I loved all the community connections and presentations. I learned so much from the other scientists and from the cohort group. This was amazing.
- I enjoy talking to another teacher from a different site. It adds a different perspective.
- [I learned that] climate change isn't a "bad word" and we should be speaking it more in the classroom as science teachers.