

September 26, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

The Copernicus Project is a federally-funded research grant with the objective improving science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education through professional development of practicing science teachers and recruitment of future science teachers. Each summer, Copernicus Project puts together a Science Summer Institute (SSI) for teachers. This past summer, we welcomed over 150 K-6 elementary teachers to focus on *Literacy through Inquiry-Based Science*. In addition to pedagogy and science content workshops provided for SSI participating teachers, we invited special guest speakers that would complement the event's theme of using the inquiry-based "5E" model of engagement, exploration, explanation, elaboration, and evaluation to effectively learn scientific concepts. Among those guest speakers was Marta Shea who led a workshop based on her book: *Motivating the Unmotivated Student*.

I invited Ms. Shea to speak to our participants, as her book on motivation contained many clever and effective strategies for engaging students in the learning process. My experience has been that teachers tend to struggle more with this initial and fundamental step in executing an inquiry-based science lesson, so I thought Ms. Shea would be able to speak with our teachers and help them spark their creative energy. Ms. Shea accomplished this in a way I never could have imagined! In a matter of minutes, Ms. Shea had the audience on their feet and fully engaged. Her energy was contagious and brought life back into a room on one of the toughest days of our institute – midweek through the second week. By engaging the audience in some of the activities she has developed, she very effectively demonstrated the importance of motivating students and engaging them in the learning process.

I would not hesitate to recommend Ms. Shea's workshop to anyone looking for creative ways to engage their students in the learning process. Ms. Shea has developed a variety of fun and effective activities that have been published in a well-selling book. She brings these activities to life in her workshops and demonstrates that motivation and student involvement is essential to effective learning.

Sincerely,



Steve Gómez
Co-Director, Copernicus Project