

AITI and GELATI - Education and training for the next generation of educators and scientists during the IPY 2007/08 and beyond

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The fourth International Polar Year (IPY) in 2007/08 provides a unique opportunity to enhance international collaboration in research and education. Here we present an IPY-teaching initiative (AITI), which proposes to develop an interdisciplinary international short course series promoting and fostering education and training of the next generation(s) of scientists and educators interested in natural and social sciences related to Polar Regions; and a short course series (GELATI) focusing on the impact of the cryosphere on the Earth system. The main goals of the short course series are to: a) provide education and training for the next generation of graduate students, science teachers, researchers in science related to Polar Regions; b) provide training for junior faculty c) integrate research and education; d) create awareness for Polar Regions related questions in class-rooms and beyond; e) create international partnerships in education and training; f) promote multidisciplinary thinking; g) increase gender diversity in science and teaching; h) encourage minority participation.

To achieve these goals we will develop a curriculum of specialized and interdisciplinary courses considering various aspects of science and scientific activities studying or linked to polar environments. These courses will pool international students and instructors to ensure highest scientific and education standards and to foster international partnership. The courses will be held at international field stations or are incorporated into research projects to integrate research and education. Full integration of junior scientists in the curriculum development and teaching under the mentorship of leading world experts ensures training of the next generation of international recognized experts. Participation of teaching, multi-media and science writing experts will increase the broader impact. The initiative is open to everyone interested in Polar Regions. Broad international participation is anticipated. For more information on AITI and GELATI and your possible involvement see <http://bprc.mps.ohio-state.edu/~svogel/IPY/IPY-index.php>

Keywords: Polar Regions; IPY; international; partnerships; research; education.