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Educational Leadership/
Service #15

March 18, 1997

Susan Blunck, Ph.D.
Education Department
University of Maryland Baltimore County
1000 Hilltop Circle
Baltimore, Maryland 21250

Dear Dr. Blunck:

Thank you for providing an outstanding workshop for Montgomery County Public Schools science liaisons on February 19, 1997. Both half-day sessions on inquiry-based instructional design were well received, and I was contacted afterward by over a dozen teachers who wanted me to know how valuable they found the workshop. Considering this particular group's extensive experience in training and being trained, this is quite a compliment.

I came away from the experience with a stronger belief in putting responsibility for design and implementation in the hands of teachers. I think this approach will lead to improved models and a greater understanding on the part of the teachers. In turn, I hope that we can enable the liaisons to extend this same trust and provide similar opportunities to other teachers on their staffs. I am enclosing a copy of the design that Ann Bedford put together based on teacher input from that day.

Also I have developed an interesting idea for a workshop called "build your own unit" in which teachers start with their core units and, using the model we are developing, select from a wide variety of related resources to modify and improve the way they present the unit. This type of unit building could also be used to develop "mini-units" on non-core topics. I would like to discuss this idea with you when next we meet as well as continuing our discussion on broadening collaboration with the University of Maryland, Baltimore Campus.

I look forward to our second session with the science liaisons on May 21 where we will define the model and develop a tool teachers can use to design/evaluate science lessons, science activities, and science units. Please contact me if your availability on this date changes or you have any questions or suggestions, (301) 279-3421.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "William N. McDonald".

William N. McDonald
Coordinator, Elementary Science

WNM:sbp

Enclosure

Copy to:

Ms. Bedford
Dr. Consuegra
Dr. Young