

## **ONE DAY MINI-COURSE FOR IN-SERVICE TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

This brief outline suggests an intensive day of instruction. The sessions build on the eight preparation and development activities available from the 1999 Toshiba/NSTA Laptop Learning Challenge Web site and CD-ROM, and use the exemplary lessons as models. Use the ideas and activities as appropriate, and adapt this schedule to fit your course and time frame.

Use one laptop and one set of interfaced instruments per group of two to four participants. Install software programs on the laptops prior to the course.

### **Morning Session (3 hours)**

- 30 minutes: Use a laptop computer and multimedia presentation to introduce laptops. Address advantages and limitations (from Activity 1), and provide examples of uses (from Activities 2, 3, 5, 6).
- 60 minutes: Review the collection of 20 exemplary lessons by dividing participants into groups by levels (elementary, middle, and high school) or by content areas (life, earth, and physical science, and mathematics). Assign clusters of laptop science lessons and projects to review. Have each small group select one lesson to present to the whole group.
- 90 minutes: In small groups, participants engage in inquiry (from Activity 4). Select an investigation in science or math, and ask participants to describe the problem at three grade levels. Review the operation of instruments attached to laptops. Plan an investigation.

### **Lunch Break**

### **Afternoon Session (3 hours)**

- 25 minutes: Complete the inquiry activity from the morning. Participants carry out investigations and prepare to report to the group.
- 45 minutes: Facilitate group presentations on the inquiry activity, and debriefing the experience.
- 20 minutes: Discuss management strategies (from Activity 7).
- 20 minutes: Review assessment opportunities, generating ideas from the group.
- 10 minutes: Hold a discussion to list issues derived from the day's activities.
- 45 minutes: Address personal plans of action.
- 15 minutes: Closure.

### **Follow-up**

After two months, participants share by email the results of carrying out individual plans with their own students.