**NSF Enhances Science in K-12 Classrooms**

- US students are falling behind in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM)
- US high school seniors tested below the international average for 17 countries in mathematics and science (http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/pisa)
- High STEM skills are necessary to keep the US globally competitive

To address the problem National Science Foundation (NSF) funds the Graduate Teaching Fellows in K-12 Education (GK-12) program which places graduate students from STEM disciplines in K-12 classrooms to collaborate with K-12 teachers.

- Over 7400 graduate students work with more than 600 000 K-12 students in 5000 schools (data from 1998-2008)
- In California in 2011 there are 17 active projects supporting close to 130 graduate and 10 undergraduate fellows (http://www.gk12.org/projet-locator)

**The GK-12 program improves STEM instruction in K-12 schools**

- Enriches the learning experience of K-12 students
- Engages students with up to date research
- Enhances teachers’ content knowledge and understanding
- Provides K-12 students with role models for scientific careers

**Future scientists gain additional qualification and training**

- Improved teaching and communication skills of graduate students
- Greater frequency of collaboration
- Increased competitiveness in the job market

**Universities and school districts benefit from new partnerships**

- Improved access to scientific expertise, technical resources and equipment
- Enhanced outreach opportunities for faculty and graduate students

GK-12 Fellow Congressional Briefing Statement, March 2011
**Goal:** to increase ocean literacy and scientific understanding in K-12 students through an open inquiry approach.

Fellows introduce scientific inquiry and share their passion for research

Students plan and execute their independent research projects

Students analyze their data and interpret their research

Students present their projects to teachers, fellows and peers

**Resources:**
- General information about the GK-12 program: [http://www.gk12.org](http://www.gk12.org)

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