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Duluth--- "Science in the elementary school should be exploratory. Science must involve children doing and trying things. It must be firsthand experience as opposed to only reading about science or being told about science."

This philosophy, as expressed by S. W. Bloom and P. E. Smith in the publication "Science and Children," is the rationale behind the Experienced Teachers Fellowship Program in Science and Mathematics scheduled to be held at UMD beginning next fall.

Twenty elementary teachers most of them from Northeastern Minnesota and Northwestern Wisconsin, will be paid \$4,000 plus \$500 for each dependent ---all of it tax free---to spend all of next year at UMD learning how to do a better job of teaching science and mathematics.

The U.S. Office of Education granted UMD about \$130,000 in February to finance the program, one of 47 colleges and universities in 26 states to be granted support money from among 992 applicants.

More than 350 teachers across the country have written to ask about the UMD program and formal applications now exceed 25. With an April 5 deadline, the rate is expected to spurt daily.

Each teacher will earn up to 36 graduate credits which later could be applied toward a Master's degree in education. All the teachers will take the same specially designed courses in mathematics and the sciences.

"Most elementary school teachers still teach science and mathematics as bodies of knowledge with undue emphasis on technology," according to Dr. Robert L. Heller, UMD Fellowship Program director. "These same teachers provide little if any opportunity in their classes for a student to discover fundamental ideas for himself.

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"We believe next year's program will do much to prepare a select group of elementary school teachers to use new curriculum materials and to teach science as inquiry."

Dr. Heller, who is Assistant to the Provost and head of the UMD Department of Geology, listed five specific goals for the program: acquaint the teachers with new materials developed by scientists and educators; help teachers identify through these new materials the basic concepts of science; provide the subject matter background that will be needed by the teachers to use the materials effectively; provide ample laboratory and teaching experience with the new materials; prepare the teachers to help their students learn through discovery.

"It is our hope that these teachers will go back and serve as leaders in upgrading the teaching of science and mathematics in their own school systems," Dr. Heller declared. "There is every indication that superintendents will support them in such improvements."

Serving with Dr. Heller on the Fellowship Program staff will be UMD faculty members: Dr. Anna M. Duval, assoc. prof. of chemistry; Dr. John C. Green, assoc. prof. geology; Dr. Harry C. Johnson, head of elementary education; Dr. John C. Verrill, head of secondary education; Dr. William R. McEwen, chairman, Division of Science and Mathematics; and Dr. Valworth R. Plumb, chairman, Division of Education and Psychology. Several visiting professors will be brought to the campus for short periods to work with the participants.