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Teacher Opportunity Program (TOP)-Science Education Summer 2009

September 24, 2009

Ms. Ghazwa Al-Doori
103-9 Van Buren Rd. Apt # 9
Voorhees NJ, 08043

Dear Ms. Ghazwa Al-Doori,

On behalf of the Lehman College-City University of New York Teacher Opportunity Program (TOP)-Science Education, we would like to thank you for co-presenting the workshop: *Manipulatives: A Sensory Blast From the Past* with Mr. Doug Balmer to the TOP-Science Cohort 11 students. The workshop presented on July 17, 2009 was very valuable and allowed workshop participants to anticipate and think productively using manipulatives to teach a range of chemistry concepts to secondary science student. The workshop also incorporated new ways to integrate technology, particularly audience response technology (clickers), to improve teaching and learning of chemistry.

TOP-Science Education hosts talented students and career changers who earn their masters degree and permanent certification in secondary science education. The primary goal of the TOP-Science is to improve urban science education by training and placing alternative certificate science teachers in classroom across New York City (NYC). Successful students in the program receive intensive pre-service training during the first summer of the program and are recommended for certification to become in-service teachers in the following fall. Training in the summer consists of working with experienced science educators, like yourself, while completing their first science education methods course, ESC 519: *Teaching Science in Middle and High School*.

Your leadership in the discussion on using resources for new science teachers teaching chemistry using the audience response system provided participants with pedagogical strategies to track and create formative and summative assessments for teachers to share with students and parents.



classrooms provided participants with new insights about how to engage students around learning science. Your contribution was deeply valued and helped us in our efforts to retain new middle and high school science teachers in NYC by providing them with essential training for success.

Sincerely,



Wesley Pitts, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor

Coordinator, Graduate Program in Science Education &
Lehman College Teacher Opportunity Program- Science