Washington & Jefferson College recently received $95,000 from the U.S. Department of Education for Science Outreach, which consists of three programs known as Saturday Science and Math, Active Science Initiative, and Young Investigator Award for the local school districts.

All of the three programs are available for students and faculty in middle schools and high schools of the following seven school districts: Washington, Trinity, Bethworth, Riggs, McQuay, Canon, McMillan, and Chartiers-Houston.

Saturday Science and Math is dedicated to high school students to come to W&J and work with the faculty and current W&J students in various projects. The first session for Saturday Math is Oct. 24, 2009 while the first session for Saturday Science is Nov. 7, 2009.

Several professors from Chemistry, Physics, and Biology will be participating for Saturday Science, and for Saturday Math four professors from the Math Department will be involved in several sessions throughout the school year.

Active Science Initiative is a program for middle school teachers to undergo two-week summer workshops at W&J.

Prior to the new funding, this program was supported by grants from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) from 1998 to 2002. The first sessions for Active Science Initiative is scheduled to take place in the summer of 2010 and conducted on the topic called Backyard Biology. The involved teachers will be able to learn about behavioral, morphological, and physiological changes of plants and animals in response to the change in temperature, light, and water.

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availability. This workshop will be led by two professors in the Biology Department: Dr. Jason Kilgore and Dr. Heather Cashman.

The Young Investigator Award is for high school students to be able to work with W&J faculty for their ongoing projects.

The available projects are through several professors in Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, and Information Technology Leadership.

There are a total of five students that may be selected for this opportunity, and each student can choose to participate either during the school semester or over the summer. For the summer opportunities, they will also be able to receive stipends.

Dr. Anne McGrain, Biology Program Coordinator, is the Principal Investigator who oversees the registration and other important details regarding the three programs.

"I’m really excited about it [the three programs under Science Outreach]," McGrain said.

"We had a lack of programs because of funding, and students and teachers really missed it."

"Connections that are forged through this program are really important to the college and the students and teachers of middle schools and high schools," emphasized Dr. McGrain.

For additional information on the programs, please contact Dr. McGrain at amcgrain@washjeff.edu.