Rivier and Daniel Webster Colleges were awarded a $13,729 planning grant by the NHHEAF Network Educational Foundation in Concord, N.H. The planning grant allows the colleges to work together and with school districts to define and plan a program called IGNITES: Inspiring and Growing Natural Interests and Talents in Education for Science. It is the first such collaborative effort between the two schools.

IGNITES will address a national problem on a local level, increasing diversity in the U.S. scientific population. The program will target middle school students and teachers to strengthen science learning resources in the Nashua region by offering hands-on summer experiences linking students and teachers.

Rivier faculty will provide instruction in biology, chemistry, and education; Daniel Webster professors will teach physics, engineering, and aeronautics. “We were pleased to collaborate with Daniel Webster to obtain this grant and we look forward to developing a program together that will promote education in the sciences,” said Sr. Therese Larochelle, p.m., Rivier’s Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Each college is already involved with efforts in the region to enhance the teaching and learning of science in the K-12 environment. Faculty at both institutions hope that when IGNITES is launched, it will serve as a model for other New Hampshire colleges, universities, and school systems.

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