

Perkins County High School's Scott King and Lisa Jameson of Wallace High School recently spent two weeks supplementing their teaching skills at a summer institute offered through the National Center for Research on Rural Education (R²Ed) at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

From June 11-21, the teachers learned the principles and strategies of guided scientific inquiry, a classroom approach designed to help students master the methods that scientists use to study the natural world.

After witnessing veteran science teachers model effective inquiry practices, they developed and presented lesson plans that they will implement during the upcoming school year.

Participating teachers will also receive follow-up coaching via distance technology to support their implementation of inquiry strategies in the classroom.

King and Jameson joined 46 fellow science teachers from rural Nebraska and Iowa communities in attending the institute, which is part of an ongoing R²Ed research project titled CSI: Coaching Science Inquiry in Rural Schools. The project aims to gauge the impact of coaching on teachers' inquiry knowledge, skills and practice. It will also assess how the resulting classroom lessons influence students' knowledge of scientific concepts and inquiry principles.