

# Teachers Upgraded By A&M Seminars

Junior high school science teachers and mothers have at least one similarity. Both know a great variety of facts.

"The junior high school science teacher needs to be a 'jack of all sciences,'" C. M. Loyd of A&M University said. Loyd is a veteran science teacher who now coordinates National Science Foundation programs here.

Mathematics and biological, earth and physical sciences all must be known by the junior high school teacher if he is to do the best possible job, Loyd said. This is a broader range of knowledge than is required of science teachers at any other level, but few teachers prepare specifically for junior high assignments.

The Academic Year Institute just beginning here for the third year under National Science Foundation sponsorship is planned to upgrade science education.

Thirty teachers from 17 states are arriving here for a year of study during which a majority will complete the Master of Education in Science Education degree.

"A typical individual when he arrives here has a fairly sound background in the biological sciences, is deficient in knowledge of the earth sciences and has had some exposure to the physical sciences," Loyd said. Even if the teacher majored in science as an undergraduate, he specialized to a great degree.

The teachers turned students will fill gaps in their individual backgrounds during the next 12 months and bolster their knowledge in

other fields. There are long hours ahead in laboratories.

"Junior high school science teaching is especially important from the viewpoint that in these years a majority of students make their career choices," Loyd said.

The highly selective program at A&M is among 50 Academic Year Institute programs across the nation.

"The majority of the teachers here in earlier years returned to their same school systems, if the systems had leave of absence policies," Loyd said. Regardless of where they went, the teacher's average salary rose by \$1,000 as a result of work done at A&M.

"A few" of the teachers changed from junior to senior high school teaching.

The typical teacher in the Academic Year Institute is 35 years of age, has seven years of teaching experience, is married and the father of several children.

Twenty-seven of the first group of 30 teachers now have completed their master's degree, and 28 of the 32 teachers in the group here this past academic year already have received their master's.

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