



School of Continuing Education  
*Marketing*

## NEWS RELEASE

6/04/03

Issued by: Terry Gillick, 414-227-3147; [tgillick@uwm.edu](mailto:tgillick@uwm.edu)

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### **UWM HOSTS JUNE JASON PROJECT NATIONAL EDUCATORS' CONFERENCE**

**MILWAUKEE** - If teachers really want to learn about the Panamanian rain forests, the best place to begin this June is in Milwaukee. At the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee June 18-20, teachers from around the world gather to get technology training from leading instructors and scientists at the Annual JASON Project National Educators' Conference.

At the conference, which is co-hosted by the UWM School of Continuing Education and the JASON Foundation for Education, the educators will learn how to implement the new "JASON XV: Rainforests at the Crossroads" curriculum and integrate its multimedia instructional tools into their classrooms.

The JASON Project is the country's leading distance-learning program for the middle grades. JASON's cutting-edge approach to learning includes access to an award-winning, gated Web community, year-round professional development for teachers, video supplements and an interactive broadcast of a real science expedition combined with a standards-based curriculum focused on the expedition environment each school year.

At this year's conference, teachers will attend research presentations, participate in hands-on rainforest workshops and take part in technology labs designed to prepare them for the implementation of JASON XV. Using the authentic research site of the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute and other research organizations working in Panama, teachers will study and explore the unique and dynamic ecosystems of the rainforest, its geologic history and the culture of the region.

"At the NEC, teachers get to become students and get to see the classroom through their eyes," said Caroline Joyce, Director of the national JASON Project. "The idea is to prepare these teachers to integrate this information into their own classrooms as they prepare students to participate in the JASON Project live expedition broadcasts and online coverage in January-February 2004. Each year 8,000 to 9,000 area students participate in the UWM JASON Project by attending the "live" broadcast on the UWM campus. In addition to this experience the "live" broadcast is sent directly into MPS classrooms via the University's ITFS System. This year's expedition also will be aired on cable television's National Geographic Channel.

Joyce added: "This year the Milwaukee Public Museum is partnering with us to have the conference participants experience the rainforest first hand in it's Costa Rican rainforest exhibit doing interactive experiments. This is a really powerful new feature for the conference."

To learn more about JASON and the National Educators' Conference, contact Cathie Sanders, 414-227-3366, or email [csanders@uwm.edu](mailto:csanders@uwm.edu).

###