



CHANCE — Winner of the 2005  
“Bringing the World to Pennsylvania” Award  
from the Pennsylvania Council  
on International Education

CHANCE represents a partnership between  
The Pennsylvania State University and the  
Pennsylvania Department of Education.

To apply to participate in the 2009 field course:  
[www.lv.psu.edu/jxm57/explore/costarica2009](http://www.lv.psu.edu/jxm57/explore/costarica2009)  
or e-mail Dr. Jacqueline McLaughlin,  
Founding Director,  
at [JShea@psu.edu](mailto:JShea@psu.edu).

For more information on CHANCE and its modules:  
[www.chance.psu.edu](http://www.chance.psu.edu)

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**Impacting the  
Way Science  
is Taught...**

**...Impacting the  
World's Future**

**Field Course  
June 29 – July 15, 2009**



# CHANCE

(Connecting Humans And Nature through Conservation Experiences)

**CHANCE is a professional development program for in-service and pre-service high school teachers from all over the country. This program trains biology teachers to teach science beyond textbooks through personal research-based field experiences and computer modules that bring biological concepts and real-world issues to life in the classroom.**

The CHANCE program was designed to address the needs of school districts across Pennsylvania, and indeed the Pennsylvania Department of Education now recommends the CHANCE field course and research modules as an effective way of helping high school teachers and their students meet the nine state standards in environmental science and ecology. Because most states must meet similar standards, the CHANCE program provides a viable framework for improving or reforming high school biology education nationwide.

The impact of the CHANCE field course and its modules on teachers and their students are overwhelmingly positive, as the data implies. Put simply, hundreds of teachers, from all over Pennsylvania and the nation, are embracing these resources.

## How does CHANCE work?

CHANCE engages high school biology teachers through the excitement of 'hands-on' field research in selected ecosystems in Costa Rica and Panama. A required Penn State field course entitled *Environmental Science and Conservation Biology: A Field Study in the Biodiversity of Costa Rica* runs from June 29–July 15, 2009. This course centers around the conservation and research programs of selected non-governmental organizations (NGO's) that focus on Leatherback and Atlantic Green sea turtle survival, coral reef biodiversity, tropical rainforest ecology, global warming, and density patterns of large cats in biological corridors.

CHANCE enhances the way teachers teach and the way students learn using real world scientific data in the classroom. This is accomplished by training teachers to use unique technology-enriched learning objects that bring environmental science and conservation realities to life—the CHANCE “research modules.” These modules cover key biological and ecological concepts using inquiry-based activities that necessitate students working with real research data.

*“First, the experience of field work in Costa Rica has helped invigorate me in the classroom; second, the wealth of experiences, pictures, knowledge, and research picked up during the trip (and in the accompanying assignments) has provided me with tons of new material for my classroom; and third, the available modules are helping me integrate interactive technology into my classes as well as being valuable curricular material in their own right.”*

— Rick Bloom,  
Ebensburg, Pa.,  
CHANCE 2007



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