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Saint Albert Selected to Participate in State AIW Project

Saint Albert High School has been selected to work with the Iowa Department of Education on an initiative that focuses on engaging students in higher-level thinking and in-depth understanding.

Called Authentic Intellectual Work (AIW), the purpose of the professional development initiative is to improve instruction and help raise student achievement.

According to Judy Jeffrey, Director of the Department of Education, Iowa is the only state in the nation to conduct this program. Saint Albert High School is one of 12 districts accepted into the second year of the professional development program. The school has joined the nine districts who initially piloted the program last year.

Saint Albert Jr/Sr High Principal Jonna Andersen and Maryann Angeroth, AEA 13 School Improvement Coordinator, said the administration and staff chose to apply for this initiative because it is the next step in a progression towards embracing the tenets of the Iowa High School Project and the Iowa Core Curriculum.

Saint Albert has sent a team of teachers to the Iowa High School Summit and studied the Framework for Rigorous and Relevant Lessons that is the backbone of the High School Project. This school year, the team has attended two seminars on implementing the AIW project into the Saint Albert curriculum. They also have participated in three site visits with an AIW coach provided by the State of Iowa.

“The administration at Saint Albert is constantly looking for ways to improve the academic program at Saint Albert, and this initiative is helping us achieve that goal,” Andersen said. “We want to do everything we can to provide our students with the best learning environment possible.”

For further information about AIW, visit the Department of Education’s Website to listen to a podcast from Director Judy Jeffrey. <http://www.iowa.gov/educate/content/view/1345/1157/>