

Biography – Griff Jones, Ph.D.

Dr. Griff Jones is the Science Master Teacher for UFTeach. With two decades of experience teaching all science subjects to K-12 students, college students, teachers, school administrators, and teacher-educators throughout the U.S., Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean, Dr. Jones specializes in designing effective inquiry-based, interdisciplinary science programs. He has authored several highly successful and nationally-disseminated inquiry-based science textbooks, curriculum guides, online-course materials, and science lab teaching materials.

Most recently, as the Coordinator for the Howard Hughes Medical Institute - Undergraduate Core Laboratory at the University of Florida, Dr. Jones help develop a new curriculum and laboratory design that together constitute a fundamentally new model for undergraduate natural sciences instruction. As a K-12 classroom teacher and science department chair at the University of Florida's P. K. Yonge Developmental Research School, Dr. Jones developed successful elementary science and honor physics programs for a diverse range of learners. In addition, through his work with the science education program at the University of Florida's College of Education he developed effective science methods courses and numerous academic linkages between K-12 and post-secondary education. These efforts resulted in several successful collaborations with numerous colleges and departments at the University of Florida as well as the Florida Museum of Natural History, and the Center for Precollegiate Education and Training.

His most well known collaboration to date has been with the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (an independent, nonprofit, scientific and educational organization). As part of his work with this organization, Dr. Jones developed an educational film and inquiry-based teaching materials focusing on the practical, and potentially life-saving, application of biology and physics. The award-winning film is used by thousands of teachers throughout the U.S. and impacts millions of high school science students each year. The ultimate goal of the collaboration was a reduction in teen deaths from motor vehicle collisions.

Dr. Jones has received state and national-level recognition for his efforts as a K-adult science educator, including the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science Teaching awarded by the National Science Foundation, the National Academy of Sciences, and The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy in 1998.