

CONNECTING THE PUBLIC TO POLAR GEOSCIENCE. AN INTRODUCTION TO THE ANDRILL RESEARCH IMMERSION FOR SCIENCE EDUCATORS (ARISE) PROGRAM.

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ANDRILL is a new, exciting and ambitious drilling program that builds on a legacy of international efforts to recover important geological records that lie hidden beneath Antarctica's icy blanket. The Program's initial objectives are to investigate Antarctica's role in global environmental change over the past 20 million years and to better understand Antarctica's future response to global changes. A purpose-built state of the art drilling system will recover sediment and rock core from regions in Antarctica where these records were previously inaccessible. The new rig will obtain long sections of core from beneath Antarctica's thick ice shelves and land-fast sea-ice in water up to 1 km deep.

As part of its education and public outreach efforts, ANDRILL has established an immersion experience for science educators (ARISE) to facilitate development of new educational mechanisms and materials at a time when global attention is focused on the poles. The program will provide science educators with an inside view of a multidisciplinary, multinational scientific research program, will engage them in authentic Antarctic geoscience, and will utilize their expertise in education to develop and implement innovative approaches to geoscience education and public outreach. Components of the program include: on and off-ice research experience, an Antarctic geoscience course, and an educational working group.

The ARISE Program's inaugural cohort of six international science educators will join 50+ members of ANDRILL's McMurdo Ice Shelf Project Science Team at the Crary Science and Engineering Center at McMurdo Station in October 2006. Each member of the cohort has proposed a unique and innovative education project and will develop these projects during the MIS Project. Applications for the second ARISE cohort to participate in the Southern McMurdo Sound Project, which will be drilled in 2007, will be sought in later this year.