

BIOMIMICRY EDUCATORS TRAINING WORKSHOP

23-28 September 2010

Tilodi Wilderness, Leeuwpoort, South Africa

The Biomimicry Institute and Biomimicry South Africa

Cindy Gilbert and Megan Schuknecht (The Biomimicry Institute) invite you to join them for this second international workshop devoted to training educators how to teach biomimicry effectively. Participants will learn about the basics of biomimicry (tools, concepts, and methodologies) as well as how to integrate biomimicry into existing curricula and/or develop biomimicry course materials. Participants will also spend some time developing biomimicry course materials that they can put to use immediately in their classrooms. We will use a combination of field experiences, presentations, and small group discussions and work sessions to accomplish the workshop's objectives.

Who should attend:

This workshop is designed primarily for university educators and administrators who are integrating biomimicry into their courses and/or programs, or who are committed to doing so. It is also open to school educators and practicing informal environmental educators and field guide trainers.

Come learn the principles of biomimicry while drawing on lessons from African mentors. Admire lovely long-necked giraffes while learning about their saliva. Watch a herd of elephants and ask what they can teach you about staying cool. And if you are lucky, catch a glimpse of the elusive leopard while learning the secrets of its silent footfalls. Your own powers of observation will play an important role in this course, but a local naturalist will be on hand to tease out deeper stories about the organisms that surround you.

What you will learn:

- Core skills for fostering collaborative design work
- How to help your students understand biological function and abstract deep principles from biology
- Biological and ecological principles relevant to design
- How to go deeper: accessing and understanding biological literature
- Examples of the latest biomimicry case studies
- Design teaching tips from your peers

What you will do:

- Apply the biomimicry methodology to a mini-design challenge
- Practice using design lessons from life as an assessment tool
- Review and evaluate modules of our new Biology and Design curriculum
- Co-develop biomimicry course materials
- Assess opportunities and challenges within your institution

This workshop is currently open only to residents of South Africa; however, registration will open to international participants on July 19.

The online registration form and details about the course, logistics, and cost can be found on The Biomimicry Institute website at <http://www.biomimicryinstitute.org/education/training/> Or you can contact Megan directly at megan@biomimicryinstitute.org.

Biomimicry (from bios, meaning life, and mimesis, meaning to imitate) is a new discipline that studies nature's best ideas then imitates these designs and processes to solve human problems. The Biomimicry Institute promotes learning from and then emulating natural forms, processes, and ecosystems to create more sustainable and healthier human technologies and designs.