SAN MARCOS: The purpose of Geography: Teaching with the Stars is to contribute substantially to geographic education in middle/junior high and high school. Since its inception in 2009, this purpose has remained true. Currently, there are two units available: Globalization and Watershed Management. The third unit, Water and Food Production is in the final stages of production and should be available soon. A fourth unit, focusing on tidewaters, is in the beginning stages of production.

Each program features in-class demonstrations by master teachers, lesson plans, supplementary materials, content enhancement piece videos, and commentaries by mentor teachers on the pedagogical strategies used in the classroom demonstrations. Also available are the facilitator’s guides, which are designed for leading both on-line and face-to-face professional development workshops using Teaching with the Stars materials, and all print materials, such as graphics, lesson plans, and classroom activities.

Specifically, at the core of the project is a media-based classroom demonstration of high quality teaching strategies performed by the “star” that will demonstrate to teachers how geographic perspectives, concepts, and skills together with relevant instructional and assessment strategies can be used to improve students’ ability to understand and deal with the geographical aspect of important issues that affect their daily lives.

Exemplary classroom lessons serve a critical role in the professional development activities in this project. These lessons are made available to project participants to use in their own classrooms. These lessons are designed to support relevant national and state geography standards.

In addition, there are three online forums available for participants to share resources, ideas, and to ask questions of project personnel and content/pedagogical area experts.

The program has been featured at several conferences including the National Conference on Geographic Education, the National Council for the Social Studies, the Association of American Geographers, the Texas Council for the Social Studies, the Michigan Council for the Social Studies, the Applied Geography Conference, and the Friends of Geography Conference.

For more information, please visit the Teaching with the Stars website, [www.geoteach.org](http://www.geoteach.org).