

University of Missouri-St. Louis
College of Education
Recruiting New STEM Teachers
N.S.F. UMSL BEST Scholarship Program

With a \$1.2 million grant from the National Science Foundation's Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship program, the University of Missouri-Saint Louis (UMSL) College of Education is recruiting Noyce STEM Teaching Scholars in the sciences and mathematics. The project, Noyce Scholars: Building Excellence in STEM Talent (BEST) Program, is funding 21 scholarships (graduate tuition and stipend) over five years. The 21 newly certified STEM (Science Technology Engineering Mathematics) high school teachers will have a Master's degree upon graduation.

The UMSL BEST program is collaborating with several local high-need school districts as well as a local biotechnology business partner, Sigma-Aldrich. The goal of the project is to increase the recruitment and retention of high-quality, culturally-conscious science and mathematics teachers.

At the end of two years and two summers, participants will have earned a Master's degree and teacher certification in their chosen academic area. Graduates of the program commit to work for three years in a high-need district. Participants will be granted a scholarship of \$10,000 per year to take part in this unique program. The coursework is tailored specifically for the prospective post-degree STEM teacher and will be offered in the evenings so that scholars can maintain their employment.

Those eligible for BEST program scholarships are those with an undergraduate degree in one of the STEM disciplines including computer science and instructional technology and meet the basic requirements of the UMSL Graduate Program. The project is founded on an existing collaboration between the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Education (COE), to prepare highly-effective secondary teachers grounded in deep science or mathematics content knowledge through the We Teach MO program. Instructional preparation includes two induction years through the COE's clinical program working in high school classrooms.

UMSL BEST aims to improve the preparation and effectiveness of secondary STEM educators through two additions to its existing certification and Master's degree program. The first is a STEM InnoLab in which teacher candidates (along with experienced educators, teacher educators and community leaders from partner districts) meet, design, and develop new instructional designs tailored to the needs and interests of students. The second addition is a partnership with the local biotech business partner, Sigma-Aldrich, which is tightening connections between the STEM high school curriculum and career pathways, as well as with the Next Generation Science Standards and the Common Core Math Standards. Research will focus on the effectiveness of the Noyce specific components and the results will inform teacher preparation programs nationwide in best practices to recruit, prepare, and retain culturally-conscious teachers for high-needs schools.

For more information or an application contact Dr. Charles Granger at UMSL at grangerch@umsl.edu or 314-516-6220. The website is <http://www.BESTTeach.org/>.

The application deadline is November 20, 2015.