

Science Education Fellowship

"I have been a part of many valuable PD programs and activities, but SEF is the only one that has positively impacted my teaching in the classroom almost immediately. And the support and guidance I have been given by my SEF mentor have helped me to identify and prioritize professional goals that I am truly excited about. This program is unique and, in a word, awesome!"

--2009 SEF Fellow

Program Overview

Thank you for your interest in the Science Education Fellowship! We hope that you will consider applying to this new Boston opportunity in order to grow professionally as a classroom teacher and as an instructional leader during your term as a Science Education Fellow.

Included in this packet is a description of the Science Education Fellowship (SEF) program, eligibility requirements, and information on how to request an application. **All application materials must be received via email or mail no later than 11:59 PM on March 26, 2010.** All Fellowship recipients will be notified by May 3, 2010. There will be a Welcome Celebration on May 20 from 4:30 PM -6:30 PM at the UMass Club for all Fellows; please make arrangements now to be available at that time in anticipation of your Fellowship acceptance.

The SEF program is designed to foster teacher and leadership skills in those who have three years of teaching experience and are committed to staying in a Boston Public Schools classroom for the next two years. Applicants do not need to have prior leadership experience nor do they have to have participated in other Boston Science Partnership events before. While many teachers may find these skills to be helpful for other avenues of leadership in the district, this program is not designed to facilitate the transition of a classroom teacher to becoming a school-based or district-based leader, such as a principal or superintendent. Up to twenty-three teachers from grades K-12 in the areas of biology, chemistry, physics, and earth/environmental science will be selected to be a Fellow for the September 1, 2010-August 31, 2011 term.

SEF: A New Boston Science Partnership Initiative

The Science Education Fellowship is a program sponsored by the National Science Foundation in connection with the Boston Science Partnership (www.boston-science.org). The Fellowship is a year-long program for experienced teachers that uses a model of teacher support and development to increase the quality of teaching and leadership in science in the Boston Public Schools. This model includes a comprehensive set of activities designed to improve teacher practice, focusing on the outcome of increased achievement in science for all students.

The goals of the program are:

- To create and support a corps of urban teachers and leaders

- To institute a culture of active and reflective instruction
- To improve teacher quality through vertical alignment within content and horizontal alignment within grade bands , meeting in small groups, and professional development in order to increase student achievement

These goals will be met by focusing the professional development in three specific areas:

Thinking about Teaching: Teachers will be involved in structured inquiry into their own teaching and growth using tools developed through educational research. As a cohort they will meet regularly to discuss core topics of teaching and learning using current videotapes of their teaching. Fellows will be asked to tape specific lessons in order to see one another teaching a similar concept across grade levels and content areas. Monthly meetings will support the work Fellows are doing in their CCLS groups and on their individual plans.

Leadership to Peers: Fellows will be asked to identify opportunities for themselves to take a leadership role within the district or with their peers. To facilitate this, Fellows will work with experts in adult learning and leadership in order to develop the skills that will allow them to help other teachers to become leaders, to be able to motivate other teachers, and to bring other teachers along the professional continuum.

Individual Growth Opportunities: Each teacher has areas of their professional lives that they hope to grow to meet a need they see in themselves or their students. Each Fellow will identify and pursue opportunities for growth based on their own professional growth plans. These might include working with a university professor, becoming a mentor to other teachers, or improving presentation skills.

Fellowship Program Description

The Science Education Fellowship year is a one year program for science teachers who are dedicated to learning and growing as a teacher and as a leader. The SEF has a core set of work that all Fellows must participate in during the year.

The Science Education Fellowship Program (250 hours) = \$10,000	
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Collaborative Work</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop relationships with teachers across content areas and levels • Participate in the SEF adapted CCLS model based on the group’s schedule • Observe other teachers’ lessons and give feedback; receive peer feedback on your lessons • Anchor feedback and reflections in research • Look at teaching and learning across content areas and levels 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Individual Work</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and carry out an individualized growth plan that has a clear vision and identifiable benchmarks • Meet regularly with your advisor • Reflect weekly • Monthly assignments for each Fellows’ meeting • Videotape 3 lessons • Lead and videotape a professional development opportunity

A Fellow's individualized growth plan should consist of a clear vision that will help lead them to where they would like to be at the end of the year and needs to consist of work that they feel like he or she would not have an opportunity to do otherwise. The plan should focus on ways to improve their own instruction and leadership skills. Accordingly, this work should tie in to what type of professional development the Fellow would like to either develop or lead for other BPS teachers. Fellows will work with an advisor who will help them to develop their own professional growth plan and will meet with their headmaster/principal to determine how to be a leader while still being in the classroom. Examples of professional growth plan electives include taking a graduate level course, presenting at a national conference, piloting and testing an innovative pedagogical technique, developing a pilot education-research project, writing an article, working with a university professor, or any other activity that can demonstrate growth as a teacher or as a leader.

In addition to monthly SEF meetings, the other major collaborative work is done in CCLS style groups throughout the year. These groups determine their own schedule, course of study, and the lessons they will all be taping and observing. These video observations, research, and student work will anchor the team's conversation in teaching and learning across science content areas and levels.

Timeline

February 8, 2010	Application process opens
February 23, 2010	SEF Information Session 1
March 16, 2010	SEF Information Session 2
March 26, 2010	Applications Due (11:59 PM)
May 20, 2010	SEF Welcome Celebration (4:30 PM – 6:30 PM)
June 1, 2010	SEF Induction (tentative)
Sept 2010-Aug 2011	Cohort 2 Fellowship Term

Eligibility

All teachers of science in grades K-12 who have taught science for at least three years¹ and been employed by the Boston Public Schools for at least two years are invited to apply; teachers must hold a valid license to teach a science subject. Teachers should be able to describe past professional leadership experiences and must be able to demonstrate how they have been successful in the classroom. Teachers also must have the support of their headmaster or principal to apply due to the extra commitments you will have during the school year. Furthermore, teachers who become Fellows are committing to remain in a BPS classroom for at least one year after the Fellowship ends. Please note that SEF is an intensive program that will require 250 hours of your time, and applicants should carefully consider their other teaching and professional obligations before applying.

¹ Note: Applicants must have already completed a full three years at time of submission in order to be considered for a Fellowship.

[Information Sessions](#)

We will be hosting two information sessions for teachers who are interested in becoming Fellows. These sessions will give an overview of the program, provide opportunities for you to ask current Fellows about their experiences, and answer any question you may have about the application process or program. The first session will be held on Tuesday, February 23, 2010, and the second session will be held on Tuesday, March 16, 2010. Each session will take place at Campbell Resource Center from 4:30 PM until 6:00 PM. Copies of the application will be available at the information session.

[How to Request an Application](#)

We are excited to offer this National Science Foundation opportunity to all BPS science teachers and encourage anyone who would like to engage in this type of professional development to apply. To request an application for yourself or another teacher, please e-mail Allison Scheff at allison.scheff@umb.edu. Applications will be sent via e-mail by the next business day.

Application materials will also be available at the Information Sessions.

[How to Apply](#)

To apply, complete the BSP Science Education Fellowship Applicant Information Form, Open Response Questions, and submit all supplemental documents. **All materials must be received by 11:59 PM on March 26, 2010.** Please submit completed applications via email to allison.scheff@umb.edu or via mail to COSMIC, UMass Boston, 100 Morrissey Blvd, W-4-181, Boston, MA 02125.

[Compensation](#)

Fellows who successfully complete their Fellowship term will receive a \$10,000 stipend. This will be paid in installments of \$2,000 five times during the Fellowship and is dependent on successful completion of requirements.

[Contact Information](#)

For more information, please contact Allison Scheff, Associate Project Director for the Boston Science Partnership, via phone at 617.287.5632 or via email at allison.scheff@umb.edu.