

# iSTAR

## Inclusive Science Teaching & Authentic Research Professional Learning Workshop for Maryland Teachers

Towson University' Center for STEM Excellence is excited to host a professional development program focusing on inclusive science teaching and authentic research for high school science teachers.

### What?

The goals of the iSTAR workshop are twofold. First, participants will reflect on their own inclusive teaching practices and learn new strategies for engaging all students in STEM. Second, participants will build their capacity to engage students in authentic research by taking part in an authentic research experience themselves.

The workshop will be facilitated by Dr. Christopher Oufiero, Assistant Professor of Biology and Kara Berger of TU's Center for STEM Excellence.

### Who?

This workshop is for high school science teachers in Maryland. While the research project will be bioscience based, teachers of all science disciplines are invited to apply. Preference may be given to teachers from schools in high-need school districts (as measured by FARMs).

### When?

iSTAR takes place over seven sessions, with six sessions in the summer and one in the fall. Workshop dates are listed below:

- Summer: Tuesday – Thursday, July 19-21 & 26-28, 8:30 am to 3:30 pm
- Fall: Saturday, November 12, 8:30 am to 2:30 om

### How to Apply:

1. Complete the [iSTAR application form](#).
2. Have your principal complete the [principal support form](#).

### Questions?

See the FAQ on the next page, or email [kberger@towson.edu](mailto:kberger@towson.edu).

### Summer Research Project

Participants will study organismal form, function, and performance by collecting invertebrates and using high speed cameras to analyze their movements. This project will contribute to ongoing research by Dr. Christopher Oufiero as part of the Organismal Form & Function Lab at Towson University. You can read more about the lab [here](#).

# Frequently Asked Questions

## What is expected of participants during the 2022-2023 school year?

Participants will develop a Classroom Implementation Project (CIP) to apply what they learned during the workshop to their current teaching practices. The CIP will entail creating a new lesson or modifying an existing one to include inclusive teaching strategies and NGSS practices learned during the summer workshop. Participants will be expected to implement this new (or modified) lesson in their classroom during the 2022-2023 school year and reflect on the experience.

## Will participants be expected to implement the summer research project in their own classrooms?

No, participants will not be required to implement the same research project in their classroom. Rather than replicating the research experience, the goal is for teachers to engage in authentic research themselves and apply the principles to their own classroom.

## Will participants be compensated for their time?

In addition to gaining experience in authentic research and inclusive teaching strategies, participants will earn a **\$900 stipend** and **4 CPD credits from MSDE**.

## Where will iSTAR take place?

The summer portion of the workshop will take place on Towson's main campus (8000 York Road) in the brand-new Science Complex. The November session will take place at the TU Center for STEM Excellence (701 E Pratt Street). Parking will be provided at both locations.

## Are all sessions mandatory?

Yes, all sessions are mandatory. Due to program constraints, there will be limited options for make-up work.

## When are applications due?

Applications are due on May 13, 2022. We must receive both the teacher application and the principal support form. We will send an email acknowledging completed applications. Contact Kara Berger ([kberger@towson.edu](mailto:kberger@towson.edu)) at any time to confirm the status of your application.