



## Information for Prospective Applicants to the 2017-18 Pilot-Testing of the Mi-STAR Professional Learning Facilitator Preparation Program

### About Mi-STAR's Professional Learning Program

The Mi-STAR Professional Learning Program consists of two strands:

- Preparation of Mi-STAR Professional Learning Facilitators
- Preparation of Mi-STAR Classroom Teachers

Professional Learning Facilitators will be prepared to use the Mi-STAR curriculum and support the efforts of classroom teachers who will be implementing Mi-STAR Curriculum Units in their classrooms.

### 2017-2018 Pilot Testing of Mi-STAR Professional Learning - Overview for Facilitator Applicants

During the 2017-2018 year, Mi-STAR will be working with schools, districts, and/or other entities that are willing to pilot test Mi-STAR's Professional Learning Program.

Organizations that participate in the pilot testing will be given full access to the six Mi-STAR Curriculum Units (2 per grade) that will be released in advance of the 2017-18 school year. In addition, Mi-STAR will provide prospective Professional Learning Facilitators with access to all professional learning materials for both professional learning strands (Mi-STAR Professional Learning Facilitator strand and Mi-STAR Classroom Teacher strand). Classroom teachers whose work is facilitated by a pilot-testing Professional Learning Facilitator will receive access to all professional learning materials for the Mi-STAR Classroom Teacher strand. These programs and services will be made available to pilot-testing organizations and individuals at no cost.

In return, pilot-testing organizations must agree to ensure that their personnel (prospective Facilitators and classroom teachers who will be implementing the Mi-STAR curriculum) will participate in all professional learning requirements. Each organization participating in the pilot testing must identify at least one prospective Mi-STAR Professional Learning Facilitator who in turn must agree to coordinate and conduct the professional learning for at least two implementing classroom teachers.

Applications from individuals who are interested in becoming certified Mi-STAR Professional Learning Facilitators must be received prior to August 7, 2017 in order to be given priority consideration. Applications will however be accepted until all available spaces are filled. Mi-STAR will maintain a waiting list if the session fills and will consider adding a second session if there is sufficient interest. Each Professional Learning Facilitator should plan on facilitating Professional Learning Program sessions for cohorts of approximately 20-24 classroom teachers who will be implementing one or more Mi-STAR units (ideally cohort members will be implementing the same unit(s)).

### How to Apply

Fill out the form available at: <https://goo.gl/forms/eThcgyunWaMbwThu2> . The application will ask for basic information about you and will request the name and contact information for your supervisor. Mi-STAR is making this preparation available free of charge but is unable to provide any other financial support to participants.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Ms. Marianne Semones ([msemones@mtu.edu](mailto:msemones@mtu.edu)).

## **Description of 2017-2018 Pilot Test of the Mi-STAR Professional Learning Facilitators Preparation**

This professional learning will be conducted and coordinated by Mi-STAR personnel. Preparation will consist of the components listed below. Participants must agree to fully engage in all components.

- Mi-STAR Academy with professional learning community (PLC) sessions. This includes an asynchronous online course plus four synchronous virtual PLC sessions and takes approximately seven hours to complete. This academy will be taken between August 14 and September 7.
- Professional Learning Facilitator Preparation. This face-to-face session will last for three full days and will occur on September 7, 8, and 15. The location of the session will be determined based on the composition of the applicant pool.
- Quarterly PLC and feedback meetings. These four synchronous virtual one-hour sessions will provide follow-up support for prospective Facilitators.
- Evaluation activities. These are designed to collect information that will improve the quality of the professional learning program.

### ***Recommended Qualifications for Mi-STAR Professional Learning Facilitators:***

- Good understanding of pedagogy required to successfully implement the new Michigan Science Standards
- Teaching certification in a STEM discipline or STEM bachelor's degree
- Experience conducting Professional Learning (PL) for teachers or extensive STEM teaching experience
- Good communication and people skills
- Willingness and ability to work with new and veteran science teachers
  - Prior preparation and experience with at least one of the following PL experiences offered through the Michigan Math and Science Center Network: NGSx, Modeling in Michigan, and/or MISCIPL@N workshops (Tier I, II, and III)
- Previous participation in Mi-STAR curriculum writing, pilot testing, or field testing

Participants who complete the above will become certified Mi-STAR Professional Learning Facilitators and will be capable of conducting and coordinating professional learning for teachers who will be implementing Mi-STAR units.

## **Description of 2017-2018 Pilot Test of Mi-STAR Classroom Teacher Professional Learning Program**

This professional learning will be coordinated and facilitated by Mi-STAR Professional Learning Facilitators (see the previous section for more information about Facilitator preparation). The program for classroom teachers will consist of the components listed below. Participants must agree to participate fully in all components.

- Mi-STAR Academy with professional learning community (PLC) sessions. This includes an asynchronous online course plus four synchronous virtual PLC sessions and takes approximately seven hours to complete. This academy will be available at the end of August, 2017. The Mi-STAR Academy is made available by Mi-STAR staff. PLC sessions will be facilitated by Mi-STAR Professional Learning Facilitators.
- Experiential Sessions. These face-to-face sessions will provide hands-on practice with the Mi-STAR Curriculum. It is recommended that classroom teachers participate in a one-day face-to-face Experiential Session before the fall semester and then participate in a second one-day face-to-face session before the start of the spring semester. These sessions will be facilitated by Mi-STAR Professional Learning Facilitators.
- Mi-STAR Academy Unit-Specific Modules. These asynchronous virtual modules take approximately 6 hours (each) to complete. They are made available by Mi-STAR staff.
- Ongoing PLC Sessions. These sessions (two per month) will be conducted while classroom implementation of a unit is taking place. Each session will be on the order of one hour in length and will be facilitated by a Mi-STAR Professional Learning Facilitator.
- Evaluation activities. Classroom teachers who work with Mi-STAR Professional Learning Facilitators during the 2017-2018 school year are required to participate in the evaluation of Mi-STAR's professional learning program. Evaluation is intended collect information that will help Mi-STAR to improve the quality of the program.