



Smithsonian  
*Science Education Center*

## CULTURAL RELEVANCY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Hosted by the Smithsonian Science Education Center and Shell Oil Company

August 6-7, 2018 | Houston, TX

Demand for talented people trained in STEM disciplines is growing rapidly in the United States. According to the National Science Board's *Science and Engineering Indicators 2016* (NSB, 2016), between 2008 and 2014 the number of STEM occupations rose by about half a million, whereas the total workforce stayed relatively steady. Yet, minorities are deeply underrepresented in STEM fields, with the share of STEM degrees awarded to Hispanics in 2013 at just 11%, 9% to African Americans, 9% to Asian and Pacific Islanders, and only 1% to American Indians and Alaska Natives, compared to 62% of the share of STEM degrees awarded to Whites. This underrepresentation indicates that minorities lack qualifications for STEM-related jobs, which, in addition to being more plentiful, are also better paid than other jobs.

To address this issue at its root, the Smithsonian Science Education Center in collaboration with Shell Oil Company is working with a "Steering Committee" of stakeholders dedicated to attracting, retaining, and developing K-12 STEM teachers from underrepresented populations. One area of work identified by this steering committee is the implementation of best practices in Shell's backyard, Houston, TX. By equipping all STEM teachers with culturally relevant teaching practices, we can better engage their students from diverse backgrounds in STEM disciplines to become the next generation of zookeepers, computer science engineers, or volcanologists.

The cultural relevancy professional development workshop provides an opportunity for teachers to:

- Build awareness about the importance of culturally proficient teaching for all populations.
- Introduce, develop, and practice strategies for culturally proficient science teaching at grades 5-8.
- Develop a community of learners to provide ongoing support and share resources.



# APPLICATION FORM

**What:** The Smithsonian Science Education Center presents a two-day professional development workshop on culturally relevant pedagogy with ongoing support funded by Shell Oil Company.

**Who:** Science teachers for grades 5-8

**When:** August 6 – 7, 2018

**Where:** Houston Food Bank (535 Portwall Street, Houston, TX)

**Return this form by email:** gainsbackk@si.edu

**Application Due:** **Friday, May 18, 2018**

## **Selection Process:**

The application process to attend this program is competitive. We are seeking 60 teachers of grades 5-8 science from Houston-area school districts to attend this training.

Applications will be scored based on the following categories:

1. **Teacher Commitment** – An expressed desire to participate in this work and willingness to commit to all expectations as outlined in section 2 of this application.
2. **Key Decision-Maker Support** – A key decision-maker at the building level (e.g. principal, assistant principal, school support officer) has been identified and agreed to the administrator commitments in section 2 of this application.
3. **Teacher Cohort** – Multiple teacher applicants from the same school, demonstrating the school's commitment to equitable teaching and sustainable, systemic change of teacher practice.
4. **Populations Served** – The extent to which the applicant reaches traditionally underserved populations in the Houston area, specifically from Houston ISD, Sheldon ISD, Spring Branch ISD, Fort Bend ISD, Alief, ISD, and Deer Park ISD.

Participants will be notified of their selection no later than Friday, June 1, 2018.

## **Direct all Inquiries to:**

Katie Gainsback  
Program Manager  
Smithsonian Science Education Center  
gainsbackk@si.edu  
202.633.2960

# 1—APPLICANT INFORMATION

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

School Email \_\_\_\_\_

Summer Email \_\_\_\_\_

School District \_\_\_\_\_

School Name/Address \_\_\_\_\_

School Principal's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide the following information regarding your teaching experience:

Total years teaching \_\_\_\_\_

Years teaching science \_\_\_\_\_

Current teaching assignment \_\_\_\_\_

*Grade level, course(s)* \_\_\_\_\_

Briefly explain why you wish to attend this training on culturally relevant teaching strategies for science classrooms and participate in any ongoing support to follow during the 2018-29 school year.

List your professional involvement in science education (e.g. attending professional conferences, in-service training, related college coursework, or giving presentations/workshops):

Please provide the following information regarding your highest degree earned in the spaces provided:

College/University \_\_\_\_\_

Degree \_\_\_\_\_

Graduation Year \_\_\_\_\_

Who is the key decision-maker you have identified in your building (e.g. principal, assistant principal, school support officer) to support this work and your participation in it and who will complete the administrator portion of the commitment agreement in section 2 of this application?

Administrator's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Send completed application package to [gainsbackk@si.edu](mailto:gainsbackk@si.edu) by May 18, 2018.

## 2—COMMITMENT AGREEMENT

**TEACHER APPLICANT:** Please initial each statement below to indicate that, if accepted, you agree:

- \_\_\_\_\_ I will attend the training on August 6-7, 2018 at the Houston Food Bank.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I will participate in follow up meetings that will be held no more than twice during the 2018-19 academic year.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I will implement new teaching strategies learned during the program.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I will assist in the collection of data to document program activities throughout the 2018-19 academic year.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I will administer pre/post attitude surveys of students.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I will complete a pre/post attitude survey for the project.

Applicant's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**ADMINISTRATOR:** Please initial each of the following statements to indicate that you will support your teacher(s) as he/she implements strategies for improving students' achievement in STEM.

- \_\_\_\_\_ I will attend a portion of the training for no less than 2 but no more than 4 hours on August 6-7, 2018 at the Houston Food Bank upon invitation. If I am unable to attend I will appoint a delegate with decision-making authority to attend in my place.

Teachers in your school (raw numbers, rather than percentages):

	African American	American Indian/Alaska Native	Asian or Pacific Islander	Hispanic	Caucasian	Other	Total
All teachers							
Teachers of STEM disciplines							

- \_\_\_\_\_ I will provide teacher demographic data for my school.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I will support teacher(s) who participate in this project as they implement new teaching and assessment strategies in their classrooms.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I will provide teacher(s) participating in the program with relevant student achievement data.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I will allow teacher(s) to administer students' pre/post attitude surveys.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I will complete a pre/post attitude survey for the project.

Administrator's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_