PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN AN ERA OF BUDGET CUTS

The Partners in Science program of the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust offers high school science teachers the opportunity to work alongside college or university scientists on real-world laboratory research of mutual interest. The chance to be part of advanced scientific investigation reignites teachers’ passion for science and reinvigorates their teaching. This experience is passed on to students as teachers share the excitement of scientific discovery.

HOW IT WORKS

During the Partners in Science program, Partners (the high school teachers) spend two summers in a college or university environment pursuing research with their mentor, who is usually a faculty member of the research institution. After the first summer, Partners develop a brief pictorial poster showing their research to date for presentation at the national meeting in January. After the second year working with their mentors, Partners return to the January conference with an oral presentation on their progress. At both the August and January conferences, Partners learn about the research of others and share ideas on teaching. During the two-year grant period, the Murdock Trust provides travel funds for high school Partners to attend the January national conference in San Diego both years. Often, the relationship formed between the Partner and the mentor continues beyond the grant period.

PARTNERS IN SCIENCE GRANTS

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<tr>
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<th>1st year</th>
<th>2nd year</th>
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<tr>
<td>High school teacher stipend</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discretionary funds</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
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<td>Academic year professional enrichment</td>
<td>$500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Travel funds for national conference</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
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<td>Total</td>
<td>$7,500</td>
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ELIGIBILITY
Mentors must be academic scientists or principal investigators who hold an appointment in a natural science department at a college, university or other qualified research institution in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana or Alaska. The investigator also must have an active research program as evidenced by grants and/or publications. His or her institution accepts responsibility for the administration of the award. High school teachers should possess academic qualifications in appropriate disciplines, in most cases a baccalaureate degree or the equivalent in chemistry, physics or biology. Applicants must have a full-time appointment and be active in high school science teaching.

HOW TO APPLY
Applications are completed by Partners and mentors together and must be submitted by mentors under the auspices of their research institutions. Potential Partners and mentors can visit sciencepartners.org to view the more detailed Partners in Science guidelines and information. The application deadline is December 1, and candidates are notified in March.

SINCE 1990 . . .
More than 500 teachers
More than 300 scientists
Nearly 50 research institutions
Nearly $12 million granted

One of the main goals of Partners in Science is to revitalize Partners’ teaching and to help them appreciate the use of inquiry-based methods in the teaching of science. Beginning with the 2015-2016 academic year, the Murdock Trust began using the Van Andel Education Institute’s Community of Scientific Practice Model. Participants will be introduced to this model by a coaching team of veteran Partners.

As a Partner, you can look forward to:
- Summer training on translating research experience into classroom practices
- Mentoring from a trained Implementation Coach
- Two-day January national conference where you will present your research
- Access to online professional development resources
- Opportunity to apply for a $7,000 grant for resources to extend research into the classroom