

# ELEMENTARY TEACHERS

## Professional Development Program



### IMPLEMENTATION SITES

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY  
VIRGINIA TECH

THE COLLEGE OF WILLIAM AND MARY  
VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY



*Sometimes teachers can get tunnel vision and don't look around to see other ways of doing something. VISTA has really opened my eyes to a completely different way of teaching that is exciting, and in the end, will really pay off."*

- Jennifer Ralls, 5th grade teacher, Apple Pie Ridge Elementary

VISTA aims to improve student learning by offering teachers free professional learning opportunities, personalized coaching and mentoring, hundreds of dollars of resources and materials for the classroom, and a diverse community of practice to support them throughout the school year. Elementary teachers work in teams in a summer enrichment camp for children as they learn about problem-based learning and receive feedback as they try inquiry-based science teaching.

The one-year Virginia Initiative for Science Teaching and Achievement (VISTA) program for elementary teachers focuses on both the teaching of science and student achievement. Teams of 4th-6th grade teachers attend a four-week summer institute to receive professional development on:

- Enhancing science content knowledge
- Improving science teaching by applying the principles of hands-on science, student-centered inquiry, the nature of science, and problem-based learning

Teachers practice the new techniques with students during two-week science camps embedded in the institute. They then return to their classrooms to implement the new teaching methods.

Teachers receive:

- Four-week summer institute
- \$3,000 stipend per teacher
- Up to \$1,000 in teaching resources, science materials, and web content for their classroom
- Travel expenses, including lodging and meals, if participant resides more than 25 miles from implementation site.



**APPLICATIONS WILL OPEN NOVEMBER 1, 2014 AND WILL BE FILLED ON A FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED BASIS.**

Learn more and apply at [VISTA.GMU.EDU](http://VISTA.GMU.EDU) or email [VISTA@GMU.EDU](mailto:VISTA@GMU.EDU)

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