

MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS

Professional Development Program



IMPLEMENTATION SITES

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
VIRGINIA TECH

THE COLLEGE OF WILLIAM AND MARY
VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY



The course material related directly to my teaching in a way that I could implement right away. For example, some of the labs I wrote as assignments in the course were used shortly after in my classroom. It also helped me plan my pacing for the year, which is a great advantage.”

- Colin Bouchillon, Biology Teacher, Manassas Park High School

For two years, VISTA provides just-in-time support and “big picture” research-based teaching coursework for new middle and high school science teachers. A unique aspect of the program is the community of practice support, including an in-class coach who provides feedback and helps the new teacher plan, teach, and problem-solve about teaching. Teachers receive free professional learning opportunities, free coaching and mentoring, and the facilitation of a statewide community of practice.

VISTA is focused on supporting new middle and high school science teachers. Randomly selected treatment participants in this program attend two three-credit graduate courses from VISTA designed specifically for early career teachers. The courses, delivered one each year for two years, focus on how to effectively teach inquiry-based science, how to use student performance to drive future instruction, and how to adapt instruction for diverse learners while using technology effectively to support inquiry. Teachers receive two full years of coaching support.

Middle and high school science teachers entering their first or second year of teaching are eligible to participate in the program.

TREATMENT GROUP SUPPORT

For two years, secondary science teachers randomly assigned to the treatment group will receive:

- Two graduate-level courses designed specifically for early career science teachers

- Six graduate credits
- Distance learning options available for selected portions of program
- Graduate credits may help teachers work toward initial licensure or recertification
- \$1,000 stipend per year for two years
- Up to \$1,000 in teaching resources, science materials, and web content for their classroom
- A master classroom science teacher as coach who will co-teach and co-plan for a total of 15 days over the two years
- Travel expenses, including lodging and meals, are reimbursed if participant resides more than 25 miles from implementation site
- All expenses paid to attend the Virginia Association of Science Teachers (VAST) Professional Development Institute in the fall

CONTROL GROUP SUPPORT

Control teachers receive a \$1,000 honorarium per year for two years for participating in data collection.

Learn more and apply at VISTA.GMU.EDU or email VISTA@GMU.EDU