

SCIENCE EDUCATION FACULTY

Professional Development Program



At VISTA, I was immersed in a community of science-minded colleagues and I got to eat, sleep, talk, and brainstorm science for one week. I left recharged and equipped to incorporate new elements into my courses. I left VISTA as a part of an inspiring community.”

- Patti Horn, Averett University

Science education faculty members are the educators who teach elementary and/or secondary science teaching methods courses. VISTA’s professional development program focused specifically for them is an investment in community building and an investment in the educators who will teach the next generation of science teachers. The intent is that this community of practice will endure and spur improvements in science education for years beyond the initial grant.

The Virginia Initiative for Science Teaching and Achievement (VISTA) offers the Science Education Faculty Academy (SEFA) to help build a community of practice at the collegiate level across the state.

In many of Virginia’s universities, the science education faculty consists of a single person, which makes networking with other faculty across institutions crucial to remaining current in the field. At this five-day academy, participants focus on learning about new science education research, sharing effective teaching strategies, building state infrastructure, and networking to build a community of practice.

PARTICIPANT SUPPORT

University-level faculty of science methods courses receive:

- Participation in five-day academy located at George Mason University
- \$2,000 stipend
- Meals, travel, and lodging paid for program participation if more than 25 miles from George Mason University

ELIGIBILITY

SEFA is open to faculty members who teach science education or science for educators classes. These could include science methods courses (either solely science or science in combination with other subject areas); joint science methods/content courses; science content courses designed for teachers (either pre-service or in-service); and science content courses that are frequently taken by teachers. Participants can be affiliated with the department/school of education and/or science and work at a university, college, or community college.



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

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