Team Formation Self-Reflection Questions

The Trustey STEM Teaching Fellows program provides professional development for individual teachers who are part of a school team. This team structure is unique when compared to other professional development experiences and is critical to making lasting impact within school communities. The thoughtful formation of the **3-4[a] person** team is a critical part of the application process. As your school builds its team, we recommend that you discuss the following questions. After your discussion, if questions persist, please contact us at trustey@nd.edu.

⇒ **Which teachers in your school are most responsible for math and science courses in grades 4 – 8?**
The Fellowship addresses all aspects of the STEM disciplines, but is particularly focused on the content and teaching of middle grades mathematics and science. We highly recommend that your middle school math and science teachers be part of or comprise your whole team.

⇒ **What is the role of the technology/computer teacher in your school?**
Technology is a critical aspect of effective STEM classrooms. However, our program may not effectively serve some technology teachers. All teachers on the team must be a teacher of record for at least one STEM course during the school day. Courses focused on the teaching of typing, mouse skills, word processing or other productivity apps would not be well served in this program. IT coordinators would also not be well served. Our program is better suited for computer science teachers who focus more on programming/coding AND integrate math or science into their courses.

⇒ **Which STEM teachers in your school are positioned to be leaders?**
The Trustey Fellows looks to build teacher leaders who are excellent in their classrooms and help transform their school's STEM culture and practice. Highly respected teachers who meet the other disciplinary requirements may be crucial to a team's success.

⇒ **Do you have any eligible early career teachers?**
Early career teachers are particularly primed for growth. Prospective teams with teachers in their 2nd – 9th year of teaching will be given preference during the selection process. Teams with teachers in their first year of teaching should delay application for at least one year.

⇒ **Does your school have any integrated STEM courses?**
STEM learning can happen in many places. Engineering teachers (e.g. Project Lead the Way) or Integrated STEM teachers (i.e. stand-alone teachers focused on a STEM problem-based learning approach or teachers who have a designated course rooted in the STEM disciplines such as those taking place in a STEM lab or Innovation lab) are welcome to apply with the team.

As mentioned above, all team members must have daily interaction with students in a STEM-related course. While one might find students using computer aided design in an art class or tinkering in a maker space in the library, art teachers, librarians, media specialists, after-school robotics coaches (who are not also teachers of a STEM subject) or similar non-STEM specific teachers are not eligible to be a part of the formal STEM Teaching Fellows team. However, Trustey Fellows are strongly encouraged to engage these and other teachers at their school in STEM efforts throughout and beyond their time in the program.

⇒ **Can an administrator be a part of the team?**
Administrators are not allowed to be part of the team unless they also have an instructional role in one of the STEM disciplines. We do encourage strong and ongoing communication with administration, and also provide specific opportunities for these discussions to take place during the course of the fellowship.

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[a] Teams of 5 will be considered with permission, based on school context.

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