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# Consortium Connections

[The e-Newsletter of the Midstates Consortium for Math and Science](#)  
*Connecting campuses to promote excellence in science and mathematics*

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## Midstates Consortium Hires New Director



The Midstates Consortium is excited to announce Dr. Michael Seymour of Hope College as the new Director of the Midstates Consortium! Mike obtained his B.A. in chemistry at St. John's University, Collegeville, MN and his Ph.D. in analytical chemistry at the University of Arizona. Since starting his academic career at Hope College in 1978 he has been involved with various Consortium programs following its inception in 1988, served as Hope Chemistry Chair for 10 years, and has been a PI and co-PI on various NSF-REU, NSF-ILI and NSF-MRI grants to support student research. Major themes during his career have included the development of novel ways to use

emerging computer technology to enhance student learning in the chemistry laboratory and the presentation of outreach activities to get young students excited about science and to improve the science background of K-6 teachers. Mike finds that the Consortium programs bring people together in an environment where the unexpected idea can be discovered or a new collaboration can be developed. He looks forward to visiting the member institutions and speaking with faculty about the most effective ways to insure that the Consortium continues to provide outstanding professional development and educational opportunities for faculty and students in science and mathematics. Mike can be contacted at [seymour@hope.edu](mailto:seymour@hope.edu).

## Workshop for Early Career Success

The Midstates Consortium is hosting a [workshop for early career faculty, post-docs and graduate students](#) in St. Peter, MN, on the beautiful campus of Gustavus Adolphus College on the weekend of July 8-10, 2016. The workshop will be facilitated by three experienced faculty members. Dr. Michael Seymour is an analytical chemist at Hope College and the Midstates Consortium's new Director. Dr. Scott Burr is an organic chemist from Gustavus

Adolphus College and Dr. Karen Nordell Pearson, also a chemist, currently serves as Hope's Associate Dean for Research and Scholarship.

**Online registration for the Early Career Success Workshop is open through Monday, June 27, 2016 (click here to register or go to <http://tinyurl.com/hq5byu9> ).**

Advanced graduate students and postdocs interested in teaching at liberal arts colleges, newly hired tenure-track or term appointment faculty, and faculty just completing their first or second years are encouraged to participate.

One of the goals for the weekend is to help each participant generate a strategic plan for the next 2-3 years of their career. This plan gives each participant time to focus on their goals, strategies and actions through creating a flexible and completely individualized plan. Another goal is to provide time for conversation between early career faculty as a mechanism for networking, sharing successes and challenges and encouraging one another. The weekend will be a mixture of time alone for reflection and strategic planning, time in small groups for giving each other feedback on your evolving plans, and time for discussions and presentations with the full group about teaching, pedagogies, establishing a research group, writing proposals for external funding, finding a mentor and much more.

Participants should plan to arrive on campus by 5:00 PM on Friday, with the opening dinner at 6:00 PM. The program will conclude at noon on Sunday. Box lunches will be available for all participants. This is especially helpful for those that need to leave quickly for the airport or driving home. The workshop coordinators will work to provide transportation to and from the Minneapolis/St. Paul airport on Friday and Sunday afternoon. More details on the coordination of those rides to campus once you register.

Please contact Dr. Michael Seymour with any questions about the workshop ([seymour@hope.edu](mailto:seymour@hope.edu)).

## **Opportunities for Faculty Development Workshops**

Do you wish the Consortium had more faculty development workshops that interest you? Do you wish they would be held somewhere other than Gustavus! It's up to you! Most faculty development workshops are proposed and planned jointly among Consortium staff

and member institution faculty. Send the Director an e-mail or talk to your campus representative if you have ideas!

## Opportunities for Faculty Visits

The Consortium has funds to support seminar visits among member institutions. This fund has been underused this academic year, so plenty of funds remain! If you are willing to give a seminar, please add yourself to our speaker database. If you are looking for a seminar speaker, please search our speaker database. You are not limited to those in the database, but the database provides an easy way to find folks who would like to give seminars at Consortium institutions. <http://mathsciconsortium.org/speaker>

## Support for Speaker Visits

Are you looking for seminar and colloquium speakers to invite to your campus? Do you have a great talk already prepared that you would like to share at other Consortium schools? The Midstates Consortium [Speaker Series website](#) provides a database of 100+ speakers and talks that you can use either to invite speakers to your campus or to advertise your own talks. The best part is that the Consortium provides full funding for speaker visits arranged through the website and approved by the Consortium!

- Option 1: To invite speakers from the database, [search the speaker database](#) and click request speaker to make a formal online funding request.
- Option 2: To invite speakers at Consortium schools who are not in the database, contact the potential speaker and then use the [online speaker request form](#) to make a formal funding request.
- Option 3: Add yourself to the speaker database by submitting a talk title and description via the [speaker series online application form](#). Early career faculty are especially encouraged to submit a talk title and description to the database and then to contact seminar organizers at other Consortium schools to apprise them of your talk and your desire to share your research and make new contacts.

## **Support for Short-Term Consultations**

The Midstates Consortium has Short-Term Consultation (STC) funding to encourage and support collaborations involving two or more individuals at different Consortium schools. Projects may involve sharing information, instrumentation and facilities, or expertise among faculty members. STC funding opportunities are a great way to jumpstart and sustain research collaborations! See the [STC website](#) for more information and to [make a formal request for STC funding via the online application form](#).

## **Thank You to the Previous Director**

The Consortium's executive committee sincerely thanks the former Midstates Consortium Director, Dr. Brandy Russell of Gustavus Adolphus College, for her years of dedicated service to the Consortium -- especially for her work as interim director this past year. Brandy will continue in her position as interim director until the end of June 2016, after which Dr. Mike Seymour will be director.