

Midstates Consortium for Math and Science Early Career Workshop

The Midstates Consortium for Math and Science is hosting a professional development workshop for early career academics affiliated with Consortium schools. The workshop will be held at Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin from July 14-16, 2026. The workshop leaders are Drs. Deanna Donohue, Lawrence University and Scott Snyder from the University of Chicago.

The purpose of the workshop is for participants to generate an individualized strategic action plan for the next 3-4 years of their career. To create a flexible, individualized plan, everyone will reflect on and discuss goals related to teaching, establishing a research agenda and weighing ways other ways to contribute. Plans consider the changing landscape of higher education and work-life balance. Ample time will be given to developing and refining potential strategies and actions. Participants benefit from listening to and giving feedback to colleagues. Interdisciplinary and inter-Consortium networking also are added benefits of the workshop.

WHO CAN ATTEND?

- Faculty completing their first or second year, newly hired tenure-track or term appointment faculty, postdocs and advanced graduate students.
- Those in the physical and biological sciences, mathematics, computer science and psychology
- Those affiliated with Midstates Consortium colleges and universities

WHAT IS THE COST?

- The Consortium will reimburse travel expenses and provide lodging and meals from Tuesday dinner through Thursday's lunch
- Participants receive a \$200 stipend

WHAT THE WORKSHOP IS NOT

- The nuts and bolts associated with specific teaching methods or pedagogies
- Advice on how to apply for grants, write articles, or where to submit papers

THE APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

- The deadline is midnight (CST) on May 8, 2026
- Enrollment is limited to 18 participants
- Early application is encouraged
- The Consortium is committed to equitable participation of member schools. Each member school will have one open spot initially. Additional participants will be chosen with the goal of having a more even representation of the schools and disciplines
- The status of applications will be known no later than May 18, 2026

Please contact Dr. Pamela Kittelson (midstatesdirector@gmail.com) with questions about the application or the workshop. Midstates Assistant, Carina Wiest (midstatesassistant@gmail.com) can provide information on travel, lodging and meals.

TRAVEL AND TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OVERVIEW

- Each participant has their own bedroom on campus.
- Sessions start at 3:00 pm on Tuesday and end around noon on Thursday.
 - The evening session will end around 8:30 pm
 - The Saturday program starts at 8:00 am and continues through dinner.
 - On Sunday, the program runs from 8:00 am to noon.
- After acceptance, participants will be contacted about travel arrangements and special requests regarding lodging or meals, if applicable.
- Upon confirmation of travel arrangements for all participants, Carina Wiest will contact those who are flying and coordinate transportation between the airport and campus.
- The final schedule for the meeting, directions and campus map will also be sent by early June.

Comments from past workshop evaluations

● Nobody in graduate school teaches you how to write goals or develop strategies...I feel much better now that I have multiple tools to pull from and work with.
● Collaboration with peers from other institutions was a key part of the experience.
● During my first year of teaching, I was frantically testing labs, writing rubrics and exams, and grading assignments, I had a difficult time prioritizing. I felt overwhelmed because everything felt time sensitive and high priority. The most valuable part of this workshop was reconnecting with my values and mission, because now I feel energized and more confident that I'll be able to prioritize the work that is most meaningful to me.
● I enjoyed the intimacy of our group. I felt comfortable sharing and asking questions.
● The workshop was amazing! I wouldn't change anything. Part of me wishes I had developed a whole plan, but honestly, I like that I have the freedom to let it percolate and come back to my plan when I have the bandwidth. Nothing I learned or experienced <i>wasn't</i> useful.