

Midstates Consortium for Math and Science MidCareer Workshop

The Midstates Consortium for Math and Science is hosting a professional development workshop for midcareer academics affiliated with Consortium schools. The workshop will be held at Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin from July 7-9, 2026. The workshop leaders are Drs. Kimberly Dickson, Lawrence University and Pamela Kittelson from Gustavus Adolphus College and MCMS.

The purpose of the workshop is to provide participants with structured time to reflect on the middle stage of an academic career and to generate an individualized action plan for the next 3-5 years of their career. Attendees will participate in activities that encourage cycles of discussion, reflection, writing and feedback. The workshop gives individuals time to set goals, shape strategies and identify future professional opportunities related to teaching, scholarship and service, especially in the changing landscape of higher education and challenges to work-life balance. Ultimately, each participant created an individualized, action-oriented plan. Ample time will be given to developing and refining potential strategies and actions.

Past participants reported feeling optimistic, energized and excited about acting on their plans. They enjoyed discussing creative ways to carve out time for one's preferred goals. They also felt it was valuable to listen and give feedback to colleagues. Interdisciplinary and inter-Consortium networking were also cited as benefits of the workshop.

WHO CAN ATTEND?

- Self-identified midcareer faculty, typically post tenure and before an articulation of a retirement timeline
- 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 or write articles although we may discuss strategies associated with these endeavors or places to seek out publication or funding

THE APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

- The deadline is midnight (CST) on May 8, 2026
- Enrollment is limited to 18 participants
- 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 4:00 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.