

## 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 Gustavus Adolphus College July 11-13, 2025. The workshop leaders are Dr. Scott Bur, from Gustavus, and Dr. Scott Snyder from the University of Chicago. Both are organic chemists.

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 to contribute to a liberal arts setting. Plans consider work-life balance. Ample time will be given to developing and refining potential strategies and actions. Participants also benefit from listening to and giving feedback to colleagues about their plans. Interdisciplinary and inter-Consortium networking 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 interested in working at liberal arts colleges
- 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 at Gustavus Adolphus College from Friday dinner through Sunday'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 June 8, 2025
- 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. The first applicant from each school will be considered first. The next six 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 June 11, 2025

Please contact Dr. Pamela Kittelson ([midstatesdirector@gmail.com](mailto:midstatesdirector@gmail.com)) with questions about the application or the workshop. Midstates Assistant, Tiffany Swehla ([midstatesassistant@gmail.com](mailto: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 Friday and end around noon on Sunday.
  - Friday dinner will be held on campus and the evening session will end at 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.
- If you arrive at Gustavus close to 3:00 pm on Friday there will be time to check into your campus accommodations during a break before dinner.
- 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, Tiffany Swehla will contact those who are flying and coordinate transportation between the Minneapolis/St. Paul airport and the Gustavus Adolphus campus.
- The final schedule for the meeting, directions and campus map will also be sent by mid-June.

#### **Comments from past workshop evaluations**

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| ● 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.  |