Participant Guide - benefits and expectations
R in Education and Assessment of Learning (REAL)

To allow you to meaningfully determine whether participating in this experience will be worth your time and energy in the coming months, we here provide a summary of the benefits and expectations for our short course and learning community. In short, you would be participating in a multiple-week crash course in the data analysis software R, followed by a semester of involvement in a learning community that will produce R modules for the teaching of R or the usage of R in biology educational research.

A great many complications and stresses have resulted from the ongoing pandemic, and it may feel overwhelming to consider adding yet another commitment to your plate, even if it otherwise seems exciting and useful. Even if 2021 doesn't work well for you, we hope that there will be future opportunities for you to participate as the community grows and expands over time! Please read the benefits and expectations listed below and let us know if you are interested in participating in this learning community. If you are interested, but 2021 won't work for you, please let us know.

Benefits
Through consistent and engaged participation, you can expect to accrue the following benefits:
- A strong grounding in R basics
- The opportunity to create an R module that will directly support your classroom instruction and/or your education research goals, as a part of a dedicated small group learning community
- Community support in your learning process, from both peers and the grant steering committee
- The chance to serve the broader biology education community through the distribution of any modules created
- The chance to become a future leader in the REAL network as it expands and we propose a full-scale Research Coordination Network to NSF
- A $1,250 stipend upon completion
- Letter of completion explaining the course and learning community, as a potential resource for annual reviews or similar
- QUBES / CourseSource publication support

Expectations
In order to attain the benefits listed above, our expectations for participants are:
- Attend at least 6 of the 8 weekly 1 hour short course sessions
- Complete prep work before all of the 8 weekly short course sessions (intended to require <2 hours per week)
- Attend at least 75% of meetings for your small group learning community, and make good faith contributions to the module design and development process
- Actively support your fellow participants in their learning processes

- Maintain active lines of communication with the grant steering committee through the end of the project

Please note: Because we want to make sure that everyone receives the maximum benefit from the short course, we will ask you to affirm your commitment to meeting these expectations when you accept the offer of a slot within the community.