

Understanding STEM Through Integrated Contexts In Everyday life (USTRIVE)

Goals, Expectations, and Commitments 2022-2024

Project Goals

We, the USTRIVE Partners (LaSalle University; Mercyhurst University; PRISE at St. Joseph's University; Villanova University; and Arcadia University), will achieve our goals by providing teachers with integrated professional development and learning community supports that are designed to address the following teacher competencies:

1. Develop, implement, and reflect on units of study that combine SocioScientific Issues/SociTransformative Constructivism (SSI/sTc);
2. Cultivate pedagogical content knowledge (PCK) in teaching orientation and instructional strategies with regard to SSI/sTc;
3. Acquire instructional design capabilities to develop and implement lesson plans, assessments, classroom resources, and reflections (i.e., units of study) that emphasize both STEM modeling (i.e., developing, testing and revising models) and the discursive nature of SSI (i.e., self-reflection and scientific skepticism); and
4. Foster student scientific literacy through a cultural competence and sociopolitical consciousness instructional lens.

Teachers who attend professional development (PD) will also receive classroom support visits to implement these new instructional approaches with their students. To help embed and expand the use of sTc in secondary education classrooms, a professional learning community (PLC) will foster content-knowledge sharing and leadership development.

Expectations

Participants are expected to engage in two years of program activities which include:

Year 1 (2022 - 2023)

- Two-week summer institute (August 1 - August 12, 2022, M-Th, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm)
- 8 Monthly workshops/field trip intensives on Saturdays (either 9- 12 or 9 - 3 - [see calendar](#))
- Up to 4 classroom support visits (Year 1 only) and lesson consultation
- One end-of-year conference with teacher-led workshops (Saturday in May 2023)

Year 2 (2023 - 2024)

- Two-week summer institute (tentative: first two weeks of August)
- Monthly workshop/field trip intensives on Saturdays
- One end-of-year conference with teacher-led workshops (Saturday in May 2024)

Those accepted in the *USTRIVE* program are expected to participate in all aspects of the program. Please note that modality is subject to change (from online to face-to-face and vice versa), and that participants are expected to follow health and safety guidelines when engaging in face to face activities, with such health and safety guidelines also subject to change. We understand that things may come up that will cause a participant to miss a class. We will try to be flexible in those situations. See [calendar](#) for dates (2022 - 2023):

Deliverables

In addition to a commitment to attend the professional development sessions, participants in this program are expected to fulfill the following program deliverables:

Year 1

- Develop and implement a unit of study using the SSI/sTc framework;
- Analyze the success of their instruction through evidence from student artifacts;
- Reflect on and refine their units of study; and
- Conduct workshops to share units of study with other educators.

Year 2

- Refine and implement Year 1 unit or create new one if the Year 1 unit is no longer applicable;
- Analyze the success of their instruction through evidence from student artifacts;
- Reflect on and continue to refine their units of study; and
- Take on the role of a leader in their own school or district which might include professional development workshops with their colleagues, parent engagement events, community projects, mentoring colleagues, etc.

USTRIVE creates intentional support to maintain and grow regional partnerships essential to promote SSI/sTc instruction through teacher leadership development, productive collaborations among teachers, schools, and community partners, and the creation of a repository of materials that can be used and adapted for use by other teachers. Teachers in *USTRIVE* will also have the opportunity to transfer their knowledge, materials developed, and experiences to the broader teaching ranks by participating in conferences. The PD program, support for teacher learning, strategies to expand teachers' capacity through the open-access digital repository of instructional resources, and the model for systemic change and community engagement, once refined through this research, will be made broadly available to teachers and others interested in this model.

Additional Research Opportunities

Participation in this program also includes the opportunity to take part in voluntary ongoing educational research aimed at improving the quality and effectiveness of teacher professional development. Information pertaining to this part of the program will be circulated separately and will include separate documentation for research participants to complete in order to enroll.

Compensation and Other Benefits

Teachers who participate in this program will have the opportunity to receive up to \$3,840 per year for attending the monthly Saturday workshops/field trips and a year-end conference. Absences may result in a deduction from the teacher stipend based on the prevalence of absences. Participants are asked to contact the Project Coordinator if they will be absent. Additionally, teachers participating in this program will be eligible for up to \$500 to purchase classroom materials as well as apply to participate in a regional conference for educators.

Absences* (Per Year)	*Summer Institute days = 6 hours; Saturday Sessions could be 3 or 6 hours. See session calendar here.
Up to 12 hours (any combination of 3hr or 6 hour sessions)	excused
absences including 13-18 hours	Stipend of \$120.00 (3-hour meeting) or \$240.00 (6-hour meeting) will not be released for hours over 12 up to 18 hrs
More than 18 hours of absences	Dismissal from the project at discretion of program management

Participant Status

We reserve the right to terminate your participation in this program, with or without cause, at any time, at our sole discretion. In such an event, you would receive payment of a pro-rata portion of the stipend and we would have no other liabilities to you.

Participation in this program does not establish an employment relationship between the participant and the *USTRIVE* program partners. Participants will not be considered employees or agents of *USTRIVE* program partners for any purpose and will not be entitled to receive any compensation other than as set forth in this document, or any benefits of employment, or any form of insurance.

Commitment to USTRIVE

I have read and understand this document and accept all the terms and conditions it contains. Specifically, I commit, by my signature below, to fulfilling all program expectations and deliverables.

By signing this agreement, I hereby grant the USTRIVE project partners a non-exclusive, world-wide, royalty-free, perpetual and irrevocable right and license to copy, distribute, and display materials prepared by me as part of my participation in this project (the "Works"), in whole or in part, and to incorporate the Works, in whole or in part, into other, derivative works for educational and research activities, including publication of the original and subsequent Works in both printed and electronic materials and on the partners' educational websites. I hereby represent and warrant that any Works submitted as part of my participation in this project will not infringe, violate the copyright or any other intellectual property right of any third party, and that all copyright or similar permissions or licenses that may be necessary will be obtained, and that I will provide documentation of such permissions or licenses upon request.

I understand that signing here does not obligate me to participate in related research activities. I understand that absence from professional development activities or not completing program deliverables may lead to a deduction in the stipend I expect to receive. And, I understand that my status as a project participant does not establish an employment relationship between myself and any of the USTRIVE project partners and is subject to termination as set forth herein.

Participant Name_____

Participant Signature_____Date_____