Stavros Niarchos Foundation
Teacher-Scholar Program
Program overview, 2016-2017

Description
The Zuckerman Institute’s Brain Insight Teacher-Scholar program is a brain science-focused professional development program for middle school and high school science teachers. Run by Columbia University’s Mortimer B. Zuckerman Mind Brain Behavior Institute, this competitive program combines public lectures about the brain with seminars focusing on neuroscience content and the science practices of the Next Generation Science Standards. The content focus of the program originates with the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Brain Insight Lectures, which examine the myriad ways that brain science intersects with everyday life. Each lecture features an eminent Columbia University researcher whose approaches to the science of brain and mind resonate with a public audience. The lectures are free, open to the public and offered four times a year. The public lectures drive the subject matter of the small, teachers-only seminars in which scientific content, the process of scientific inquiry, and the teaching of science are discussed. The Brain Insight Teacher-Scholar program integrates the science and engineering practices of the Next Generation Science Standards to explore parallels between academic research science and how science is taught. Teachers who complete the program will emerge with greater knowledge of neuroscience, a deeper understanding of the scientific process, and concrete ways to implement their knowledge in the classroom.

Structure
Teachers enrolled in the Teacher-Scholar program attend all Brain Insight lectures. Seminars occur on approximately one week before and one week after the associated lecture. In these seminars, teachers focus distilling scientific content, the nature of science, and classroom applications. Teachers are required to attend the seminars as well as the public lectures. Teachers are encouraged to bring colleagues and students to the lectures as well. In small groups teachers create and give feedback on new lessons to bring back to the classroom. Throughout the program, they examine the eight science and engineering practices of the Next Generation Science Standards and compare them to science as it is practiced.

Program dates and subjects
There are four lectures per year on weekdays at 6:30 pm, and eight seminars per year, from 4:30-6:30 pm. Seminars occur on Tuesdays from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at Columbia University. Lectures and seminar dates are scheduled so as not conflict with the NYC DOE public school high school calendar. The program calendar will be finalized the summer before the program begins. If an applicant’s ability to participate fully in the program depends on the final program calendar, the applicant should communicate that. In some cases, the program can provide tentative dates or a more specific schedule.

The lecture topics for each year are as unique as the list of speakers each year. The lectures from the 2015-2016 series can be found here; topics included childhood brain development (Kimberly Noble) and learning and decision making (Daphna Shohamy). Topics from prior lectures include: learning and
memory (Eric Kandel), willpower (Walter Mischel), autism (Catherine Lord), and the psychology of stereotypes (Valerie Purdie-Vaughns).

**Expectations and Deliverables**
Satisfactory attendance at seminars and lectures is essential for a successful program experience. Infrequent absences are permitted provided previous arrangements have been made. Active participation in the seminars and occasional, limited work outside of the seminars is expected. Teacher-Scholars are required to create one lesson plan per semester incorporating either the lecture content or NGSS skills (or both) presented in the Brain Insight Teacher-Scholar program.

**Stipend and supplies money**
Teachers are paid $1,200 for their involvement in the program ($600 for the first semester and $600 for the second, upon successful completion of attendance and lesson plan requirements).

Teachers have a $300 supplies budget for supplies purchased in relation to lessons created for the Brain Insight Teacher-Scholar program. Teachers must submit receipts and a description of how the money was used to be reimbursed for those expenses. The budget is active for the current year of program participation AND the following academic year.

**Eligibility**
The Teacher-Scholar program is open to middle and high school science teachers currently employed by any public, independent, or parochial school in New York City. Teachers must have at least two years of experience teaching at their grade band. Applicants must be a U.S. citizen or resident alien. Up to 15 high school teachers and 8 middle school teachers will be accepted for the 2016-2017 programs.

Alumni of the program are eligible to apply in future years. Individuals are eligible to participate for a maximum of two years in the program (sequential or non-sequential years). All alumni are welcome to attend the public lectures at any time.

**About the Zuckerman Institute**
Grasping the implications for the health of the brain, mind, and nervous system is perhaps the greatest challenge facing 21st-century science. To lead the way, Columbia University has established the Zuckerman Institute for the pursuit of interdisciplinary and collaborative research in brain science.  
[www.zuckermaninstitute.columbia.edu](http://www.zuckermaninstitute.columbia.edu)

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