



Baltimore Excellence in STEM Teaching (BEST) Project: 2011-2012



Thank you for your interest in the BEST Project. Please read the important information below before continuing with this application.

Who can apply: High school or middle school teachers who hold MSDE certification and are tenured within their local school system. The primary teaching assignment must be within a STEM discipline.

If selected to the 2011-2012 BEST Project Cohort, the following are required from the teacher as a full participant in the program:

- Participation in a 6-week authentic research experience during the summer of 2011 (research internships will take place in the Baltimore-metro area and will be arranged by the BEST Project staff)
- Participation in organizational meetings and professional development workshops after school and on three or four Saturdays during the 2011-2012 calendar year
- Completion of teacher and student surveys
- Classroom visits by BEST Project staff and pre-service teachers during the 2011-2012 school year
- Completion of various outreach and translational activities including, but not limited to, public speaking events, school-year collaborations with summer research mentors, and the development of a curriculum module related to the summer research experience

The BEST Project Application consists of two tiers. The BEST Project staff will use the following timeline to process application materials:

- January 10, 2011: Tier I application materials due
- February 1, 2011: Notification of acceptance to Tier II
- February – March 2011: Tier II classroom observations
- April 4, 2011: Notification of BEST 2011 acceptance

Use the instructions below to complete your BEST Project Tier I Application.

1. Fill in and print the Tier I Application Form.
2. Sign the participation agreement.
3. Have your principal sign the participation agreement.
4. Print your four essay responses.
5. Mail or fax your completed application and four essays to the address to the right.
6. Have your department chairperson or supervisor mail or fax a letter of reference to the same address.

Mail or fax all application materials to:

Julie Damico
BEST Project
TU Center for STEM Excellence
701 E. Pratt St., Suite 200
Baltimore, MD 21202

Fax: 410-385-6367

If you have questions about the BEST Project application, program expectations, or to request a hard copy of the application materials, please contact Julie Damico at jdamico@towson.edu or 410-385-6321.



**Baltimore Excellence in
STEM Teaching (BEST) Project
2011-2012**



TIER 1 APPLICATION: Due on or before January 10, 2011

Applicant Information		
Last name	First Name	MI
Home Address		
City	State	Zip
Home phone	Home email	
Race / Ethnicity (optional)		

Teaching Information		
Number of years of full-time teaching experience		
Certification area(s)		
Type of certificate		
Current school system	Years	
School Name		
School Address		
City	State	Zip
School phone	School fax	
School-issued email		
Principal		
Department Chair		

Current Teaching Assignment	
Course	Grade Level
Course	Grade Level
Course	Grade Level

Previous Teaching Assignment

School System and School

Course(s) taught and grade level(s)

Academic Background

Undergraduate School

Degree Earned

Date

Graduate School

Degree Earned

Date

Current enrollment

Degree or certificate program

Date

Professional Development Experience

For your three most recent OR three most valuable experiences, provide the title of the professional development experience, who sponsored the event, date(s) attended, and a brief description

Experience #1

Experience #2

Experience #3

Professional Affiliations & Memberships

List your professional affiliations and memberships

Agreement to participate

Applicant's Agreement: If I am selected to the BEST Project Cohort, I agree to participate in all project events, to complete the designated terms of the summer research experience, and to complete the outreach activities required during the 2011-2012 school year.

Applicant's Signature

Date

Principal's Agreement: I understand that the teacher above has applied for the 2011 BEST Project Cohort. During the 2011-2012 school year, I understand that he/she will participate in several outreach and professional development activities, some of which may occur during school hours. I agree to support this teacher as he/she completes these school-year activities in order to fulfill the requirements of the BEST Project.

Principal's Signature

Date

Essays

Please type responses to the following questions. Limit each response to a single page.

1. Why are you applying to be a BEST Practices Teacher? Include descriptions of how participation in the BEST Project fits into your short- and long-term personal and professional goals.
2. Completion of BEST Project activities such as after school and Saturday workshops (six to eight combined), community outreach activities, and BEST Project lesson plan development during the 2011-2012 school year will place significant demands on your time. Please address how you will be able to meet this time commitment while still successfully performing your regular instructional duties.
3. Describe any specific areas of expertise you possess, for example, previous research experience, superior content knowledge, or proficiency with specific instructional technologies.
4. Explain the importance of inquiry or inquiry-based learning as part of the educational program. Include a specific example of how you use inquiry or inquiry-based learning in your classroom.



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For the Applicant:

Please print this page, fill in your name, and give it to your department chair or school system content-area supervisor.

Letter of Recommendation for _____

For the department chair or content-area supervisor:

The teacher above has applied to participate in the 2011-2012 BEST Project Cohort. Please write a letter of reference that describes the professional qualifications of the applicant (including information regarding certification and tenure status), as well as his/her ability to commit to and successfully complete the various components of the project. (See below for additional information regarding these components.)

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