

## CCPI-STEM IS NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR ITS 3RD COHORT OF FELLOWS

“Go for it,” is the advice of the four Fellows who participated in the webcast [CCPI-STEM Fellows: A Unique Opportunity](#). Each of the Fellows encouraged community college educators who are enrolled in doctoral programs and who are interested in developing the skilled technical workforce to apply for the CCPI-STEM Fellows program.

The [application](#) for CCPI-STEM’s third cohort of Fellows is available now; applications are due September 20. DeDe Griffith, vice president of workforce education at [Temple College](#) in Texas, has leveraged the fellowship to involve more industry partners in devising more STEM career pathways for rural students. These partners are funding 84 STEM camps and mobile STEM labs this year.

She has also utilized the advice offered by CCPI-STEM co-principal investigators and senior personnel for her dissertation research and to expand undergraduate research at Temple.

Griffith’s advice to prospective Fellows is this: “Take advantage of every opportunity that you can. You are never going to find these individuals as supportive around you at one time as you will in this program.”

Jason Boehm, interim dean of STEM at [St. Louis Community College](#) in Missouri, recommends people re-apply to CCPI-STEM if their first application was not successful. He applied in 2023 after not being selected in 2022 for the first cohort in 2022. He said CCPI-STEM’s mentoring, professional development programming, and \$5,000 annual honorarium have helped him with his job and his dissertation research on student-centered teaching practices.

Dr. Ashok Agrawal, coordinator of the CCPI-STEM Fellows Program, said the only in-person time commitment of Fellows is that they attend the three-day Advanced Technological Education Principal Investigators’ Conference in Washington, D.C., in October.

He explained that CCPI-STEM leaders also expect Fellows to “continue your graduate work; engage in undefined and unspecified professional activity related to promoting STEM careers and the workforce.”

CCPI-STEM provides a mentor to each Fellow. The guidance mentor share during periodic, remote meetings varies depending on their area of expertise and the Fellows’ needs. “It is mostly answering questions or discussing professional challenges a Fellow may be facing,” Agrawal said of the mentoring sessions.

When asked what she likes about being a CCPI-STEM Fellow, Allison Foster, assistant professor of Anatomy and Physiology at [Columbus State Community College](#) in Ohio, said, “building a network and having folks that you can reach out to if you have a question, and knowing they will get right back to you and help.”

The [National Science Foundation’s Advanced Technological Education \(ATE\) program](#) funds the CCPI-STEM project and the Fellows program, including the \$5,000 per year honorarium Fellows receive for up to two years. Support in the second year is contingent on Fellows making satisfactory progress during the first year.

Emily Halvorson-Otts, dean of Sciences at [Pima Community College](#) in Arizona, calls the honorarium “that little bonus” on top of the national networking opportunities that come with being a CCPI-STEM Fellow.

She applied to be a Fellow for the opportunity to merge her background in STEM with development of leadership skills. Because she and her husband are paying out-of-pocket for her doctoral program, she said, “the incentive of the honorarium was also attractive.”

This material is based upon work supported by The National Science Foundation under ATE grant #2132510. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation.

