



INDIANA UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION
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For Immediate Release

IUPUI Faculty Receive \$1.5 Million Grant to Prepare New STEM Teachers

INDIANAPOLIS, March 2018 – A team of six IUPUI faculty members has been awarded a five-year, \$1.5 million grant to prepare undergraduate students for careers as secondary STEM teachers. The award comes from the National Science Foundation Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program, which seeks to encourage talented science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) majors and professionals to become K-12 mathematics and science (including engineering and computer science) teachers.

The project, *Carver Teaching Initiative - Inspiring the Next Generation of STEM Teaching Professionals through Internships, Recruitment, and Engagement (CTI – INSPIRE)*, will support internships and scholarships for undergraduate students pursuing STEM degrees and preparing for careers as classroom teachers. It will provide 90 summer internships, 25 two-year scholarships (up to \$16,500 each year), and professional development incentives for 15 first-year teachers.

STEM teaching is one area that is often in high demand among school districts. This project will focus on helping to meet that demand in Central Indiana, primarily through three district partners (Pike Township, Lawrence Township and Muncie Community Schools).

A recent study of high school students' career interests led by the grant PI, Jomo Mutegi, found that, "The strongest career influence that high-achieving, high school students have is first-hand experience doing work in a given career area. The second strongest career influence is to have a vicarious experience, wherein students learn about the career from someone in that area. These influences can be either positive or negative. Positive experiences will influence students towards a career and negative experiences will influence them away from a career."

Drawing on this and findings from similar research, the project seeks to nurture college students' interest in STEM teaching by providing positive first-hand experiences through internships in addition to aggressive recruitment, and early professional development.

The six faculty members leading the project are Jomo W. Mutegi, Crystal Morton, & Craig Willey from the School of Education and James Hill, Tamiko Porter and Robert Yost from the School of Science. To learn more about the *Carver Teaching Initiative (CTI)* visit www.CarverTeach.org.

To News Editors and Reporters: For more information you may contact Jomo W. Mutegi, Associate Professor at 902 W. New York Street, ES 3132 • Indianapolis, IN 46202 • 317-278-4202 (phone) • jmutegi@iupui.edu (email).

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