The LIFT² Program for STEM Educators
Corporate Sponsorship Opportunity

2019 Program Components

LIFT² participants will work in externships in technology and engineering companies for 5-7 weeks during the summer taking on authentic projects, shadowing professionals, contributing their expertise to the organization and experiencing the opportunities that STEM careers offer.

Employers assign a mentor to oversee the externship and guide the work assignments, and most mentors have reported that the small investment of time is more than covered by the productivity of these knowledgeable educators.

Participates take a 3-credit Problem-Based Learning (PBL) course that meets once every other week and online during which they develop a project-based learning lesson that they can bring back to their classrooms.

In the fall, participants take a 1 credit follow up course where they demonstrate and document their students’ learning through the lessons they developed. In many cases, teachers will also bring their students to the site at which they worked so that they too can experience the STEM field first-hand.

Program Overview

The LIFT² program, now in its 16th year, places committed teachers into paid externships in companies in STEM fields so they can experience first-hand what careers might look like for their students. Through their experiences on the job, and a companion project-based learning course, these teachers develop the skills and insights to make their teaching come alive in their classrooms and to inspire their students. Over the course of a year, each teacher in the LIFT² program might influence 100 to 400 students, and over a career they may touch the lives of 5,000 to 10,000 future employees.

Massachusetts, and the rest of the country, face a severe shortage of college graduates prepared to enter STEM fields. Those most influential in encouraging students, in particular females and minorities, to pursue STEM careers, are middle and high school teachers. Their influence depends on the degree to which these teachers engage their students in real world applications of their learning and raise their students’ awareness about the exciting possibilities available in the scientific, technical and engineering fields.
**Sponsorship Commitment**

- Interview candidates from a pool developed by the Program Director and choose the person that best fits your needs.
- Pay a fixed sponsorship fee of $6,000 to cover your extern’s graduate coursework, recruiting, program events and program administration, or $9,000 to sponsor two teachers.
- Provide a meaningful experience and compensate the participant at a rate of $800 per week for 5-7 weeks during their externship.

In order to be included in the early rounds of communication to prospective participants, sponsorship commitments should be made by 3/31/19.

**What Our Participants Are Saying**

“I got to work with new and emerging technology. The program completely exceeded my expectations and significantly impacted my teaching.”

“I am able to bring real-world experience to the classroom and assist students in enhancing their 21st Century skills.”

For more information about sponsoring a teacher externship please contact:

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or
Laura Tyrrell, T21 Program Director
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For more information about the program, go to [http://www.teachers21.org/ lift2](http://www.teachers21.org/lift2)

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**About the Program Director**

Katie Clarke, herself a former program participant and experienced STEM teacher, has been leading this program and teaching the graduate course in Project-Based Learning for 5 years. Originally a science teacher, the LIFT² program inspired her to seek funding to refit a classroom and implement a hands-on STEM education program that all students at the Pollard Middle School in Needham are required to take in both 7th and 8th grades.