



August 17, 2016

Dear Newberry College *REMAST* Teaching Fellow,

We are writing to ask you to participate in a study conducted by the *REMAST* team at Newberry College under the *REMAST Phase II* grant. We are studying what contributes to the effectiveness of current and future high school Mathematics and Science teachers, their persistence in the teaching profession, and what factors contribute to this persistence. By collecting and analyzing data from you, our goals are to positively influence the work of public school districts, particularly those serving high needs students, and teacher education programs across the United States through publication of project findings.

In this next phase of our *REMAST* grant, we are interested in collecting data from our graduate Teaching Fellows to address questions such as:

- What aspects of a research-focused, multi-level professional learning community (PLC), an organization of educators sharing values and vision, personal practices, and collective creativity, have the most impact on math and science teacher persistence and effectiveness? How can these aspects be replicated?
- What leadership development is possible and appropriate for math and science educators when focused on research and working at pre- and in-service levels?
- Does research-focused, multi-level leadership development increase math and science teacher persistence and effectiveness?
- What aspects of research-focused, multi-level leadership development have the most impact on math and science teacher persistence and effectiveness?

If you volunteer to participate in this study, you will be involved in one or more of the following:

- Giving and/or sharing results from one or more student content assessments,
- Completing one or more teacher performance assessments,
- Being observed and/or videotaped during instruction, and/or
- Completing one or more surveys related to how you perceive your leadership and persistence in teaching.

As a result of your participation in *REMAST*, you have been selected as a candidate for inclusion in this study. There is no payment per se for participation in this study.

A consent form is attached. Please consider helping us to make the Newberry College STEM Education program better than ever by completing the form, and returning it to us by November 2, 2016. We value your input and participation.

Sincerely,

Christina McCartha, PhD,
Professor of Chemistry
Principal Investigator

cc: Charles Horn, PhD, Professor of Biology, Co-Principal Investigator
Renee Stubbs, MEd, Associate Professor of Mathematics, Co-Principal Investigator
Sara Peters, PhD, Assistant Professor of Psychology, Co-Principal Investigator
Cindy Aulbach, MS, MAT, Adjunct Instructor of Biology, *REMAST* Master Teacher