

Project Manager Qualifications:

Dr. Rob Blair is a Professor of Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology in the College of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resource Science at the University of Minnesota. Currently, he is the principal investigator of a National Science Foundation-funded project that is examining how citizen-science projects can be used as a springboard to authentic scientific inquiry by secondary students. This project developed the curricula for the four nationally recognized citizen science projects – eBird (birds), Minnesota Phenology Network (phenology), Odonata Central (dragonflies), and Project Sunflower (pollinators) that will be used in this proposed project. In this role, Dr. Blair supervises two full-time employees and a graduate student. He also coordinates the research and work of three co-principal investigators who participate in the project. His role for the Driven to Discover project will be similar. He will hire and oversee a part-time coordinator and a part-time teacher liaison to handle the day-to-day functioning of the project, teacher recruitment, and teacher coaching during the school year. For the summer workshops, he will work with an additional four scientists with expertise in the four citizen-science projects and with an additional four lead teachers with expertise in classroom implementation.

Dr. Michelle Koomen is a Professor in Education at Gustavus Adolphus College where she works in teacher preparation. She was heavily involved in the research phase of Driven to Discover and in developing the curricula that will be used in this phase of dissemination. Her role will be to assist the participating teachers in planning for implementation of the curricula during the school year.

Dr. Marshall Davis is the preK-12 Science Supervisor for the Saint Paul Public Schools. In this role, he is responsible for the professional development of science teachers within the district. For this project, he will serve as an instructor on leadership within the school setting for the participating teachers. He will be involved in both teacher recruitment prior to and teacher implementation after the workshops.

Renae Lenhardt is the Secondary Science Teaching and Learning Specialist for the Anoka-Hennepin School District. In this role, she is responsible for the professional development of secondary science teachers within the district. For this project, she will serve in an identical role as Dr. Davis but with her efforts directed in the Anoka Hennepin district.

Organization Description:

This proposed project is one of a series of professional development workshops implemented by Dr. Rob Blair and Dr. Karen Oberhauser over the past 15 years. These have been funded through grants from the Minnesota Office of Higher Education and the National Science Foundation, which has allowed these workshops to be honed in content, pedagogy, and usefulness to teachers.

This specific professional development workshop and accompanying curricula were developed from 2014 – 2018 with a grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF). This proposal is to offer the professional development workshops to an additional total of 72 teachers over two years and to disseminate the curricula that have already been developed through the beneficence of the NSF.

Note: This project includes a stipend of \$1000 for each teacher who participates in the program. This is equivalent to \$12.50/hr of work which is half of the rate recommended for teacher professional development by the Saint Paul Public School District. Our prior experience in teacher professional development has shown that stipends are required for teacher participation during the summer when they are not paid.