

# *Invitation to Participate In a Partnership School*

## Institution of Higher Education

The Math and Science Academy (MSA) of the Los Alamos National Laboratory, a program with a 16-year history of providing high-quality professional development to district schools in northern New Mexico, is inviting you to join them in developing a **Partnership School**.

The **Partnership School** will be a collaboration between an existing district elementary school and its community, an institution of higher education with a teacher pre-service program, and MSA. The purposes of the Partnership School are to:

- Build and sustain a school that is a community of learners who are engaged in their work and who think critically and deeply about the world around them,
- Research and develop a model for elementary school education where preservice teachers, in-service teachers, and principals have opportunities to continually improve their practice and the profession of education,
- Provide a model of best practices and innovation for educators, policy makers, and the general public, and
- Effectively partner with a school community to support students.

The specific goals, approaches, and measures of success for the **Partnership School** will be developed collaboratively with the partners.

The roles of a higher education partner in the **Partnership School** could include:

- Using the district school as a site for practicum training for pre-service teacher candidates;
- Collaborating with district staff and MSA in identifying and implementing educational best practices;
- Collaborating with district school staff in teaching courses, mentoring teacher candidates, and guiding action research;
- Providing opportunities for in-service teachers to further their education; and
- Conducting grant-funded educational research involving the district school.

We are seeking an institution of higher education for the **Partnership School** that has:

- An accredited teacher pre-service program with a history of successfully developing teacher graduates (other programs such as graduate and leadership programs are a plus, but not essential for consideration),
- An interest in creating opportunities for teacher training embedded in a district elementary school,
- A working knowledge of Professional Development Schools,
- An interest in supporting education research in a district elementary school,
- A willingness to engage in-service teachers in education research and university course teaching, and
- A college of education campus in one or more of the following counties: Los Alamos, Mora, Rio Arriba, Santa Fe, San Miguel, Sandoval, and Taos.

### **How to Learn More**

Information sessions will be held on the following dates and at the following locations:

- Taos, March 7 (time/location TBA)
- Espanola, March 8 (time/location TBA)
- Santa Fe, March 9 (time/location TBA)

### **Next Steps**

Submit a letter of interest that

- Identifies your institution,
- Describes your institution (demographics; history of your college of education; resources related to education research and training such as faculty, grants, and programs; successes; and goals for improving the outcomes of your college of education),
- Provides your response to each of the items listed in “We are seeking...”, above, and
- Describes your interest in this partnership.

Submit your letter of interest to:

Math and Science Academy  
Community Partnerships Office  
Los Alamos, National Laboratory  
P.O. Box 1663, Mailstop: A117  
Los Alamos, NM 87545

***Deadline for letters of interest is COB, April 15, 2017***

Process for selecting partners:

1. Review letters of interest and select finalists
2. Participate in interviews and discussions at the candidate's site to permit each party to better determine if the partnership will suit them
3. Select partners
4. Develop partnership agreements

We anticipate having agreements in place by July 2017, and begin developing the Partnership School soon thereafter.

### **Related Links**

- [MSA video](#)
- [What it means to be a professional development school, NAPDS, 2008](#)