

2020-2021 Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching Short-Term – Cycle II (Fulbright DAST)

DAST Cycle II Project: Introducing Mexican Trainee Teachers to STEM Teaching Approaches and Techniques

I. PROJECT OVERVIEW

City, Country: Santiago Tianguistenco, Mexico

Project Date Range: October 12 – November 30, 2020

Project Length: 6 weeks

Summary: A U.S. K-12 STEM education specialist will travel to a teacher training college in Mexico to introduce trainee teachers to modern STEM teaching approaches and techniques while serving as a U.S. cultural ambassador and a catalyst for reflection on best educational practices at the college.



II. HOST INSTITUTION INFORMATION

Name / Department: Santiago Tianguistenco Teacher Training College (Escuela Normal de Santiago Tianguistenco)

Type: Teacher training institution

Website: <http://normalstianguistenco.edomex.gob.mx/>

About: Since the Escuela Normal de Santiago Tianguistenco opened its doors as a teacher training college in 1974, it has trained close to 2,000 teachers. The college has two BA programs: one for elementary school teaching, and one for middle school teaching with a concentration in ethics and civics. One hallmark of the college is the strong community spirit among its teacher trainees. This is exemplified by the college's academic committees in which trainee teachers meet to discuss ideas and provide feedback on their classmates' pedagogy. Recently the Mexican government's Interinstitutional Committee for the Evaluation of Higher Education labeled the Santiago Tianguistenco Teacher Training College as a 'Level 1' institution, which reflects the college's academic and professional excellence.

III. PROJECT INFORMATION

Background: The current curricula for both the elementary and middle school teacher training programs include modules related to science and the pedagogy of teaching scientific subjects.





However, these modules include little information about modern STEM teaching approaches or content areas. It is hoped that introducing trainee teachers to the basics of STEM education will not only be an enriching professional development experience for them but will also improve their scientific thinking skills. The Fulbright DAST fellow will be given opportunities to conduct observations of trainee teachers carrying out lesson plans on scientific subjects. In addition, it is hoped that the interaction with the Fulbright DAST fellow with teaching staff and administrators will lead to a general reflection, review, and reorientation of educational practices at the college while helping boost the English skills of trainee teachers and instructors and contributing to developing their international perspectives.

Activities: Leading seminars, workshops or other teacher professional development for educators; Consulting with administrators and/or instructors on faculty development; Developing academic curricula or educational materials; Assessing academic curricula or educational materials; Presenting lectures or conference plenary presentations

Target Beneficiaries: Trainee teachers; college instructors

IV. QUALIFICATIONS OF SELECTED APPLICANT

Teaching Level: Secondary

Years of Teaching Experience: 5+ years

Subject Area Expertise: STEM; Teacher training; EFL; Science; Mathematics

Language Requirement: Intermediate-Advanced Spanish required

