

# MTI : Minneapolis Teachers Institute



All children could and should be inventors of their own theories, critics of other people's ideas, analyzers of evidence, and makers of their own personal marks on the world.

Deborah Meier, Senior Scholar, New York University Steinhardt School of Education

At MTI, educators learn how to imagine and design innovative, interdisciplinary classroom projects that are relevant to students' lives and the new demands of teaching in today's standards-based educational culture.

A dynamic partnership between the Office of Equity and Diversity at Minneapolis Public Schools and Department of African American & African Studies at University of Minnesota makes this possible. Created in 2011 with the goal of connecting local teachers with national innovators and trendsetters in the humanities and arts, science and mathematics, MTI promotes new ways for educators to consider, study, and change how teachers and students approach the educational process.

MTI's mission is to build a network of critical educators committed to creative, democratic classrooms in which teachers and students generate meaningful relationships, develop dynamic educational experiences, and connect learning to the real lives of young people.

Underlying all of MTI's work in schools is an understanding that many of the problems young people experience in their day-to-day lives are the consequence of race, class and gender stereotypes. Projects emerging from classrooms supported by MTI demonstrate that when teachers learn to understand the function of race, class, and gender in the lives of their students, they can help their students be more

actively engaged in the learning process.

Each year, MTI leads a cohort of PreK-12 teachers or *fellows* in a year-long, interdisciplinary learning process facilitated by innovative thinkers and forward-looking scholars of science and mathematics, humanities and the arts.

Throughout the fellowship year, fellows gain unprecedented support and resources through individual mentoring, ongoing interactions with MTI's lead educational consultant and program coordinator, online resources, and symposia on the campus of the state's flagship university, University of Minnesota.

Image: Krista Franklin

# Participation : Application Process

## MTI participation requires the following commitment to:

- ▶ Attend all symposia.
- ▶ Participate in mentoring the lead educational consultant.
- ▶ Design, implement, and share in a public forum a creative classroom learning project that demonstrates critical attention to MTI's annual focus, mission, and commitment to exploring race, class and gender stereotypes with students.

## Fellowship award:

- ▶ \$1,000 stipend
- ▶ Access to reduced-rate graduate credits at University of Minnesota. Note: the cost of credits is incurred by individual registrants, not MTI or its sponsors, and registration for credits is not required for participation in the institute.
- ▶ One year of individual mentoring.
- ▶ Continuing Education Units.

## Apply to MTI:

- ▶ In the academic year 2014-2015, MTI will accept 20 fellows into Cohort D until the institute is filled.
- ▶ Learn more about MTI and complete an application at [minneapolisteachersinstitute.org](http://minneapolisteachersinstitute.org)
- ▶ Email a current resume to STEEL012@umn.edu

## For more information:

Ph: 612-624-0556

Email: STEEL012@umn.edu

# Selection Criteria

- ▶ Dedication to teaching for understanding.
- ▶ Demonstrated commitment to the academic and social-emotional success of all students.
- ▶ Integrity in professional and personal learning.
- ▶ Critical understanding of MTI's mission.
- ▶ Service as a Minneapolis Public Schools teacher in preK-12 schools: mathematics or science, the arts or humanities (English, language arts, social studies), English language learners, special education.

## Preferred:

- ▶ Minimum three years of teaching experience PreK-12 education.
- ▶ Experience using project-based or problem-based methods.
- ▶ Demonstrated understanding of the importance of critical pedagogy.

## SCHEDULE 2014-2015

(Exact dates+times to be confirmed)

<b>Foundations</b>	October/November (a Friday 6hrs+Saturday 3hrs)
<b>Symposium I</b>	December/January (a Saturday 3hrs)
<b>Symposium II</b>	February/March (a Saturday 3hrs)
<b>Project Exhibit</b>	April (tbd)

