



FEATURED ARTICLE

New STEP Forward Program launches for 2017-2018

We are pleased to announce **STEP Forward**, an exciting new program that offers STEP graduates the opportunity to extend your communications skills beyond the classroom to the general public and with policymakers.

In collaboration with the Pacific Science Center, STEP Forward fellows will participate in the Pacific Science Center's Science Communication Fellowship program to develop a hands-on activity related to your current research for teaching and engaging a general audience. In addition to working with the public through events at the

STEP

Science Communication within the classroom:

- Develop teaching skills that emphasize critical thinking and active learning;
- Build courses from the ground up;
- Gain teaching experience;
- Generate teaching portfolios and evidence of teaching.

PacSci SCF

Science Communication with the public:

- Develop strategies to promote inquiry and engagement with diverse populations;
- Develop hands-on teaching tools;
- Participate in outreach and service to the public, disseminating scientific research and its relevance.

Pacific Science Center, fellows will receive training and opportunities to present to local policy-makers, and mentorship on preparing your activity or teaching materials for publication.

Important dates for STEP Forward:

Sept 8: Applications due

Oct 14: PacSci Training Session 1

Nov 4: PacSci Training Session 2

Dec-May: Participate in 3 PacSci events

April 17: Present at the UW Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Symposium

Spring 2018: Training & networking event w/ local policymakers

Summer 2018: Writing retreat (1-day) for preparing materials for publication.

STEP Forward

Science Communication in the classroom, with the general public, with policymakers, and in the academy:

- Build an integrated set of skills and opportunities for communicating scientific research and its relevance within and beyond the classroom to the general public;
- Develop and apply additional skills for communicating scientific research to policymakers;
- Use STEP Forward activities and experiences to publish in journals specializing in the scholarship of teaching and learning.

NOTEWORTHY NEWS

WELCOME TO THE INAUGURAL ISSUE OF OUR NEWSLETTER!

Our Science Teaching Experience for Postdocs (STEP) Program has trained over 100 postdocs and has grown tremendously over the past several years since its collaboration with UW Bothell began in 2011.

With additional funding by the Burroughs Wellcome Fund this year, we are launching several new components to STEP, including the **STEP-BY-STEP** quarterly newsletter for our past and current STEP fellows. Here you will find articles of interest, announcements of upcoming events, dates, deadlines, and keep current with what is going on in the STEP community of past and present fellows.

If you any have any announcements, photos, articles and/or ideas that you would like to contribute to the newsletter, please contact **Eva Ma** (eyma@uw.edu).

IMPORTANT WEBSITES & DEADLINES

Sept 8: STEP Application due

<http://faculty.washington.edu/beccap/step.html>

Sept 8: STEP Forward Application due

<https://catalyst.uw.edu/webq/survey/beccap/338222>

STEP Forward is a collaboration between STEP and the Pacific Science Center that provides training and opportunities in science communication, and mentoring for publication of your activities and/or teaching materials. This program is supported by the Burroughs Wellcome Fund.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

STEP Applications for 2017-18

The **Science Teaching Experience for Postdocs** is currently accepting applications from postdoctoral scientists training for academic careers in a biology-related discipline who seek teaching experience at the undergraduate level. The program's mission is to engage a diverse pool of postdoctoral fellows at the UW and affiliate institutions in a closely mentored apprenticeship to learn how to teach scientifically with inclusive, demonstrably effective, student-centered pedagogies. We are especially interested in recruiting fellows who are committed to increasing the diversity of scientists by fostering an inclusive classroom atmosphere.

Please spread the word that we are accepting applications for the new STEP cohort! We rely heavily on word-of-mouth to recruit.

Applications to participate in STEP are due on **Friday September 8, 2017 at 5pm**.

STEP Women's Group

Laura Richert-Spuhler has done a great job organizing the **STEP Women's Group** for the past year, and now she's ready to hand it off to someone else. We're looking for someone to organize and schedule a get-together about once a quarter – often someone else finds a speaker or event. For scheduling, it is helpful to choose a time and place where you know 2-3 people can make it before inviting a larger group. Usually lunch meetings and early evenings work best for most people, with the location switching between SLU and UW.

Please contact **Becca** (beccap@uw.edu) if you're interested.

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

Congratulations to STEP graduate **Nyasha Chambwe** in the news regarding her participation in University of Oregon's Summer Institute in Scientific Teaching.

<http://around.uoregon.edu/content/science-teachers-go-back-school-hone-classroom-skills>

UW Bothell also had a nice article written earlier this year about the STEP program. If you missed it, you can check it out here:

<https://www.uwb.edu/news/february-2017/teaching-experience>

STEP Forward (continued from page 1...)

As part of our STEP Forward extension, we will be holding a one-day writing workshop/retreat next summer that will be open to **ALL** STEP graduates, even if you did not participate in the PacSci Communication Fellowship program. The aim of this workshop is to help you prepare the activities/teaching materials that you had developed during your STEP and/or STEP Forward training for publication in a journal on the scholarship of teaching and learning.

Moreover, we encourage everyone who is interested to submit posters to present at the annual UW Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Symposium in April.

More details and resources regarding the symposium and the summer writing retreat will be released later as the dates draw closer.

We hope you all consider applying to STEP Forward! Applications are due on **Friday September 8, 2017 at 5pm**

New STEP Website is Coming!

We've heard from many of you regarding the **STEP website** and it's now time for a fresh new look! Construction of the new STEP website is underway and will go live sometime next quarter.

Our new website will feature the following public content:

- STEP and STEP Forward program descriptions & applications
- Quarterly newsletter
- Calendar of events
- Archive of resources published by STEP and STEP Forward fellows
- Links to current job ads, teaching resources, and career development opportunities
- Research highlights in biology education and postdoctoral affairs
- Alumni profiles
- Contact information

We will also have a private portal (via Canvas) for current STEP fellows and alumni that will have the following:

- STEP Forward writing retreat details, application, and resources
- Program evaluation forms
- Unpublished teaching materials and posters from current and past fellows
- Link to an online discussion board
- Sample job application materials from STEP alumni (teaching statements, portfolios, etc.)
- Index of job offers and negotiations from STEP alumni

We will also be setting up a STEP email list via Google Groups so we can communicate with each other directly.

If you have additional ideas, photos, and/or suggestions for the website, please contact **Becca** (beccap@uw.edu).

Congratulations to the following STEP graduates who got jobs this year!

<u>STEP Cohort</u>	<u>Fellow</u>	<u>Current Institution</u>	<u>Position Obtained in 2017</u>
2014-2015	Ashenberg, Orr	Broad Institute	Computational Biologist
2016-2017	Conerly, Melissa	OncoResponse	Scientist
2016-2017	Dvinge, Heidi	University of Wisconsin School of Medicine	Assistant Professor
2016-2017	Jagannathan, Sujatha	University of Colorado School of Medicine	Assistant Professor
2015-2016	Kruse, Martine	Bates College	Assistant Professor
2015-2016	Robitaille, Aaron	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Product Applications Specialist III
2014-2015	Schindler, Abigail	Veterans Administration, University of Washington	Research Scientist, Acting Assistant Professor
2016-2017	Senning, Eric	University of Texas at Austin	Assistant Professor
2013-2014	Stawicki, Tamara	Lafayette College	Assistant Professor
2015-2016	Stewart, Mikaela	Texas Christian University	Assistant Professor
2013-2014	Wang, Adrienne	Western Washington University	Assistant Professor