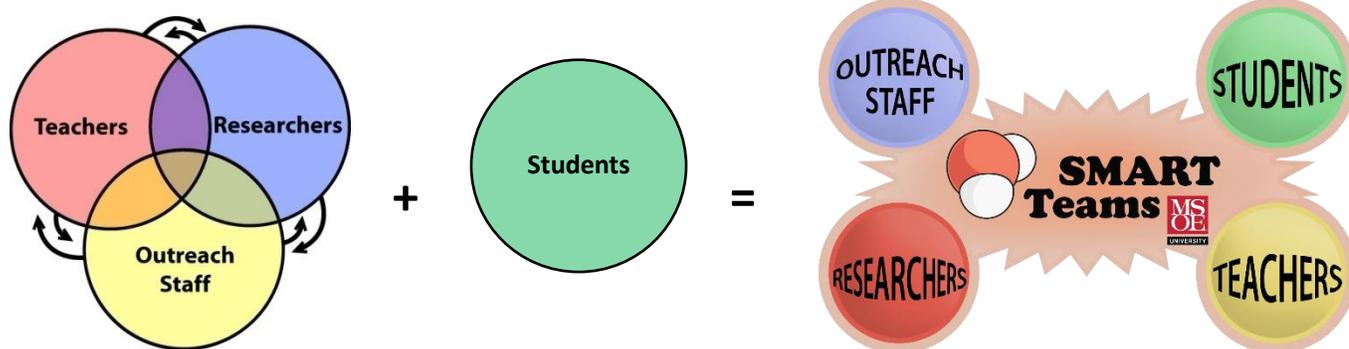


The SMART Team Partnership

A SMART Team is a partnership among four critical groups of people. First, the teachers, researchers, and CBM outreach staff must come together to facilitate and implement a supportive foundation on which students can build their science skills. Once motivated students are added to the equation, a successful SMART Team is born! As with all good partnerships, the whole accomplishes much more than the sum of its parts. The quality of the SMART Team experience for students will be determined by the quality of the partnership that is built among these groups.



Who are the key players in this partnership, and what are their roles?

It is the Teacher --- they represent the “rate-limiting-step” in organizing a SMART Team. Teachers must be committed to facilitating and actively engaging in this experience with their students. Without teacher involvement, there is no program.

Role of the Teacher

- Commit to an 8 month program
- Provide appropriate guidance for students to facilitate understanding of research topics
- Coordinate and facilitate meetings between mentor and students
- Monitor and reinforce deadlines for tasks
- Support the team administratively – determine meeting locations, logistics, make copies of papers as needed, provide access to technology for Jmol and poster designs
- Attend SMART Team meetings – including the Final Presentations
- Actively participate in SMART Team meetings WITH students
- Review and provide feedback to students on every task before it is sent to the CBM
- Be the liaison between your team and both Mentor and CBM – all communication, tasks, emails, etc. should go through the teacher (always include “SMART Team” in the subject line)
- Identify opportunities to promote SMART Teams to school administration and community

It is the Research Mentor --- without the researcher's willingness to share their knowledge and their time to provide the students with a glimpse of "real science" in their laboratories, there is no program.

Role of the Research Mentor

- Familiarize SMART Team members with your research
- Share your story of how you choose to do research for your profession
- Teach the process of science – show/tell the students how your research happens
- Assist students in identifying a molecule to model and important features to highlight
- Provide students with resources to understand the topic
- Answer questions from Team members to develop their understanding of the topic
- Engage students in dialogue regarding topic to bring out misunderstandings students might have
- Attend meetings with team members
- Arrange a lab tour experience for your Team.
- Provide feedback to students on model design, abstract, poster and oral presentations

It is the Outreach Staff --- the CBM staff facilitates the partnerships between teachers and researchers and coordinates and monitors the interactions between the groups.

Role of the Outreach Staff

- Facilitate program tasks and logistics
- Provide feedback to teams regarding tasks
- Provide assistance to teachers and mentors when needed
- Serve as a liaison between mentors and teachers
- Plan and implement teacher meetings, mentor meetings, qualification exam, etc.
- Organize a capstone experience (poster presentations, etc.)
- Provide opportunities for optional travel to national meetings, like ASBMB

It is the Student --- this is who it is all about. Students play a crucial role in that the program goal is to expose them to the real world of research. A successful program hinges upon their motivation toward engaging in the process of science.

Role of the Student

- Commit to an 8 month program
- Work diligently to understand topics by reading, asking questions, re-reading, investigating, etc.
- Perform tasks effectively and submit by or before posted deadlines
- Ask questions of teacher and mentor when unsure or need more information
- Respect all team members (students, teacher, mentor, director of SMART Team program)
- Attend meetings and final poster presentations
- Take responsibility for team's tasks, don't assume another team member will take care of it
- Respect your Mentor's time – allow adequate time for mentor to review material and provide input