

Whitaker Center Membership

Benefits of Membership

Name Recognition. As the Whitaker Center's reputation increases, using the Whitaker Center name is a benefit when working with the community or making submissions for publications, presentations, or funding. You may choose to capitalize on this by including "Faculty Associate, Whitaker Center for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education" (or if you prefer, "Whitaker Center Faculty Associate") on professional contact information, such as business cards, e-mail signatures, websites, and your professional communications.

Support for Scholarly STEM Education Activities. The Whitaker Center supports innovative teaching and research in STEM education. To encourage and support faculty in these endeavors, the Whitaker Center assists by consulting on grant proposals, the design of research methodologies, classroom observation, and evaluation plans. The Director can serve as an external evaluator for submitted educational research grants.

Professional Development Activities. The Whitaker Center supports faculty development in STEM and STEM Education through seminars on evidence-based practices in STEM teaching and learning, STEMinars on areas of collaborative research interest at FGCU, round-table discussions on undergraduate research, and the ability to develop leadership roles through the center's leadership team, programming and initiatives.

Please check the Whitaker Center website regularly for updates on programming and opportunities. We also have a FaceBook page that lists events. If you have questions or are in need of service, please contact any member of the Whitaker Center administrative team at x7444. Other contact information is available on the website.

Responsibilities of Whitaker Center Membership

The collective STEM Education work of Whitaker Center associates contributes to the Whitaker Center's reputation as a model of STEM education innovation and reform. This serves to establish the Whitaker Center as the nexus of expertise in STEM education for Florida Gulf Coast University, Southwest Florida, and the nation. The Whitaker Center also actively collaborates with other post-secondary and K-12 institutions throughout Florida to bring about meaningful and sustainable reform in STEM Education.

Associate members contribute to this expertise through teaching, scholarship, and service activities aligned with the vision, mission, and goals of the Whitaker Center. Faculty STEM education activities should be included in faculty Professional Development Plans (PDPs) demonstrating support of the Whitaker Center, the member's College, and Florida Gulf Coast University.

As an Associate of the Whitaker Center, you:

- May identify yourself as a member of the Whitaker Center and include the Whitaker Center name on all STEM education activities you undertake.
- Agree to list the Whitaker Center as a designee when completing the internal review form for external STEM Education grants. By doing this, 10% of the indirect costs that come to the university associated with your grant will go to the Whitaker Center for programming. This requires the signature from the Whitaker Center director, as well as your department/division chair and college dean.
- Agree to include a Whitaker Center acknowledgement on STEM education submissions supported through the Whitaker Center, such as articles for publication, conference proposals, applications for scholarly recognition, and awards in STEM education.
- Agree to engage in STEM Education activities (examples outlined below) and **annually report your activities to the Whitaker Center** and your college.

Whitaker Center Associate Activities

Activities like those listed below support the Whitaker Center vision, mission, and goals and may be included in Professional Development Plans and Annual Reviews. Faculty undertaking these activities advance the vision, mission, and goals of the Whitaker Center, their respective College, and Florida Gulf Coast University simultaneously.

Teaching

- ◆ Participation in Whitaker Center Seminars, professional development, and/or workshops
- ◆ Participation in a Teaching Cell
- ◆ Attendance at a professional conference on teaching
- ◆ Mentoring Undergraduate Research
- ◆ Team Teaching
- ◆ Interdisciplinary Curriculum Development
- ◆ Peer Coaching or Mentoring

Scholarship

- ◆ Conduct Research on STEM Teaching and Learning
- ◆ Submit articles on STEM education to professional journals
- ◆ Present at a professional conference on a topic related to STEM education
- ◆ Submit grant proposals for STEM education projects under Whitaker Center

Service

- ◆ Support of STEM Undergraduate Research
- ◆ Work with K-12 teachers and/or administrators
- ◆ Support programs in STEM areas for university students
- ◆ Support programs in STEM areas for K-12 students
- ◆ Make community presentations on STEM topics and issues or issues in STEM education
- ◆ Contributions to community education in STEM
- ◆ Serve on the Whitaker Center Leadership Team
- ◆ Serve on a Whitaker Center Committee