



Vision for the UGA Office of STEM Education

Mission

As **UGA's central resource for information and services related to STEM**, the Office of STEM Education (1) provides campus-wide leadership for activities that improve STEM teaching and student learning, (2) promotes disciplinary-based STEM education scholarship, and (3) facilitates productive partnerships among members of the university, P-12, business, government agencies, and local communities.

Goals

Enhancing Instructional Delivery: Aligning its activities with UGA's Complete College Georgia Plan and emphasizing the importance of the learning experience, the OSE will continue to support teaching innovations that focus on improved learning and student retention through mini-grant funding to faculty. As a complement to this support and to encourage scaling and sustaining successful innovations, the OSE will partner with Office of the Vice President for Research to expand faculty opportunities for external funding. Existing contracted services to assist faculty in research design and assessment will be expanded.

Building Communities of Practice Expanding upon the existing learning communities, the OSE will facilitate connections between and among STEM Educators within and across departments, institutions, and educational sectors. Sample strategies that can be used to facilitate connections include webinars, discussion forums, and invited participation in state and national conversations on STEM topics.

Facilitating Networking and Information Exchange The annual *UGA STEM Institute on Teaching and Learning* provides a forum for sharing best practices in STEM teaching and learning, discussing challenges and opportunities for improving student performance in STEM, and catalyzing the formation of new partnerships among diverse groups. To maintain and encourage engagement throughout the year, the OSE will facilitate/promote smaller events for purposes of professional development, garnering outside funding, and sharing of expertise and innovations across departments and institutions.

Advancing Partnerships The OSE will maintain current and develop new partnerships that improve STEM learning opportunities for students. Partners include institutions of higher education within the state and beyond, neighboring P-12 school districts, state and national educational agencies, and local businesses.

Strengthening Accountability The OSE will aggregate and track data associated with STEM-related institutional goals on an annual basis looking for trends, improvements and areas for further investigation. Additionally, all programs and services offered through the OSE will be reviewed on an annual basis at a minimum for modification, elimination or expansion.

Promoting STEM The OSE will expand its web presence to provide faculty key STEM related information on what is happening nationally, at the state level, and locally. Additionally, the OSE will disseminate instructional successes and important events through partnerships with other key faculty information resources on campus.