

Teaching Science and Math in the Nation's Service

Princeton University



Program in Teacher Preparation
Princeton University
41 William Street
Princeton NJ 08540

TeacherPrep
PRINCETON UNIVERSITY PROGRAM IN TEACHER PREPARATION

Funding for Future Science Teachers

Maybe you are thinking about bringing your Princeton education into America's classrooms and labs—after graduation or at some time in the future. Maybe you are already a participant in the Program in Teacher Preparation (TPP), deciding on an area of certification. Maybe, regardless of your major, you are concerned about the level of scientific literacy in this country. You want the United States to have jurors who understand DNA evidence; legislators who make informed decisions on matters that affect the environment; citizens who can assess the validity of the graphs and charts in newspapers, who know stem cells from black holes, and millions from billions and trillions—citizens who share the knowledge of the physical world that you, and other science and math teachers, can impart.

Whatever your major, consider this: The Bilodeau-Overdeck Scholarship for Math/Science Teaching is now available to support TPP participants who wish to certify in science or math. The scholarship aids undergraduates who want to complete their practice teaching in a ninth semester, or graduate students or alumni who must suspend employment to do their practice teaching. Tuition, teaching materials and supplies, partial living costs, and the N.J. Department of Education certification application fee are covered by the scholarship.

Shirley M. Tilghman

President of Princeton University and Professor of Molecular Biology

“A critical key to our future prosperity lies in the quality of U.S. science education—from kindergarten to postgraduate training. Thinking freshly and creatively about the most effective ways to convey to students the fascinating properties of the natural world is not simply crucial to our future, but I predict that it will make our teaching a great deal more satisfying in the long run.”

Daniel Rubenstein

Professor and Chair, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

“By ensuring that some of the nation’s most talented and creative students become scientists and science teachers, breakthroughs will continue to be made that will improve lives and preserve the planet. There is no one better able to take on this teaching mission than the passionate and motivated science teachers trained by the Princeton faculty and the Program in Teacher Preparation. Princeton graduates can make a difference.”



Lindsay Clark Bartolone

Class of 1999

An astrophysical sciences major, Lindsay Clark Bartolone is senior educator at the Adler Planetarium and Astronomy Museum in Chicago. She is also the Education and Public Outreach lead for NASA’s Interstellar Boundary Explorer (IBEX) and Wilkinson Microwave Anisotropy Probe (WMAP). Currently earning an M.S. in science education, she says, “Science teaching is not only important to inspire future scientists and engineers, but also to create a nation of people who can understand, support, and benefit from scientific advances. This Teacher Prep funding is great news!”



Lucy Jacobson Jameson

Class of 2006

Lucy Jacobson Jameson, who majored in physics, now teaches the subject at Hopewell Valley [N.J.] Central High School. “At Princeton,” she says, “I admired professors more for their teaching than their research. I realized that, as a teacher, I would be in an especially effective place to encourage young women to pursue science.” Besides believing that “the purpose of an education is to serve others,” she thinks, “A grasp of scientific processes is essential for every person to become a critical thinker. To make good choices for ourselves and our country, we need to understand scientific discoveries on several fronts, including medicine and energy.”



Barbara Todd

Class of 1998

Barbara Todd graduated with a B.S. in engineering. She was working for a computer company and by chance missed a September 11, 2001, technical consulting assignment in the World Trade Center. “That day changed my life,” she says. “I decided to do something more meaningful with my life.” She returned to Princeton to obtain certification to teach high school physics. She will begin teaching in a local school district in the spring. “The TPP is great in that it allows alumni to come back at any point to obtain certification,” she says. Teaching science is “the most rewarding job I’ve ever had. These students will be educated voters, and will have the power to control decisions in our country through the election of our leaders,” she says.



John Yi

Class of 2003

A chemistry major, John Yi decided to earn a master’s degree in chemistry before returning to Princeton to do his student teaching. He now teaches chemistry at Millburn [N.J.] High School. He enjoys the “logical and systematic approach to solving problems” demanded by chemistry. “I realize that for many of my students, this may be the last formal science course they take. Hence, it is my responsibility to develop within them an interest in science and an appreciation for how science is important in their everyday lives.” Princeton’s program, he says, is particularly important because it “trains individuals who know science and want to teach science to youngsters.”

For more information

If you would like to learn more about the Program in Teacher Preparation, or the Bilodeau-Overdeck Scholarship, call the program office at 41 William St., (609) 258-3336, and speak with John Webb, the director, or Todd Kent, the associate director. Information also is available at www.princeton.edu/teacher.

The Bilodeau-Overdeck Scholarship is a gift of Laura Bilodeau Overdeck '91. Overdeck, a consultant to several nonprofit organizations, majored in astrophysical sciences. At Princeton, she learned to appreciate the importance of great science teachers. She wants “to make it as easy as possible for talented, passionate scientists to inspire our next generation through teaching. There is infinite need for them in our nation’s schools.”

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