



Project Fulcrum

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To The Teacher:

Thank you for agreeing to work with your school's Project Fulcrum Resident Scientist or Engineer. Project Fulcrum is a National Science Foundation funded program that teams science and engineering graduate students with teachers. Two primary purposes of the project are a) to identify graduate students in science, math and engineering who will be future leaders in their fields and make them aware of the challenges in K-12 education, and b) to help teachers increase their knowledge of science and their comfort level teaching it.

We expect that our Resident Scientists and engineers will be able to help you in a variety of ways: by identifying university resources relevant to your classes, facilitating outside speakers when required, and adding their content expertise. Resident Scientists work with students and their teachers in truly innovative ways to the benefit of everyone involved. A couple points of information:

By Nebraska State Law, Resident Scientists may not be left alone with students at any time. Resident scientists are **not** state certified. A licensed teacher must accompany them whenever they are in contact with students.

Project Fulcrum requires Resident Scientists to form partnerships with teachers. Resident Scientists should not 'take over' your class, nor should they serve as just an extra set of hands. Resident Scientists will work *with* you to determine how their expertise and resources can best assist you in achieving your goals for your students.

In addition to their work with Project Fulcrum, Resident Scientists carry a full load of graduate courses (9-12 credits) and/or are working on research projects required for their degrees. They may have to be absent due to conferences or other travel associated with their degree program, or due to tests. They are to notify you as soon as they know about possible absences so that alternate arrangements can be made.

Again, I thank you very much for being willing to be a part of the Project Fulcrum partnership. Should you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact our main office at 402-472-8685. We hope our Resident Scientist's time in your classroom will be enjoyable, educational and fun!

Sincerely,

Diandra L. Leslie-Pelecky
Associate Professor of Physics