

Characteristics of A+ Fellows

A+ Fellows are a network of professionals, including PreK-12 classroom teachers, arts and other special area teachers, administrators, college professors and practicing artists from all disciplines, who conduct the professional development for A+ schools and partner organizations. Fellows complete a one-year apprenticeship before "becoming" an A+ Fellow.

Essential characteristics of A+ Fellows:

- ✓ An interest in becoming both a learning and contributing member of a network of professionals
- ✓ An understanding of the A+ Schools Program and a commitment to the A+ philosophy demonstrated through professional practice and through continuing to develop individual capacity and the ability to share with others
- ✓ An understanding of school culture, learning environments and educational practices
- ✓ Demonstrated presenting and facilitation skills for large and small groups, including strong oral communication and active listening skills
- ✓ A collaborative spirit

Experience is required in one or more of the following areas of expertise:

- Knowledge of and experience in one or more art form (music, visual arts, dance, drama, writing, media arts) and in arts integration
- Knowledge of and experience integrating within specific subject areas or grade levels including science, mathematics, language arts, social studies, media, foreign languages, technology, guidance counseling, physical education or special education for early learning, elementary, middle or high school
- Knowledge of and experience with Gardner's Multiple Intelligences, application of brain research and other theories of intelligence
- Knowledge of and experience with curriculum design, Common Core standards, ways of assessing and instructional practices
- Knowledge of and experience in school leadership and administration, team development, assessing school needs, identifying and providing resources and developing school partnerships with the community (parents, business, media and higher education),



Additional desired qualities include:

- Understanding of and experience with the creative process
- Comfort and skill in facilitating adult professional development, including an understanding of systems thinking, effective listening and group process
- Ability to adapt to change — often rapidly — demonstrate flexibility and respond to feedback
- The capacity for being both a self-starter who is willing to take risks and for being a team player willing to let someone else take the lead
- "Figuring-out" skills; taking one step at a time to determine the next step; comfortable in a "non-directive" environment as well as a directive environment
- Comfort with a high level of ambiguity over a short period of time (days or weeks) and with a low level of ambiguity over a long period of time (weeks or months)
- Ability to collaborate and work on a team and in a network, including ability to follow guidelines regarding communication, honor deadlines for completing and submitting materials, and attend team planning meetings and work sessions

For more information, please contact Michelle Burrows, A+ Schools Program Director at (919) 807-6503 or by email at michelle.burrows@ncdcr.gov or visit our website at <http://aplus-schools.ncdcr.gov>