“Teachers play a huge role in society. As a STEM educator, I will be teaching students not just math, rather the developmental skill to think critically. Being a critical thinker will allow my students’ creativity to flourish so that they can be the next Bill Gates or Stephen Hawking.”

~ Estefania Hernandez (Mathematics)

“STEM education reaches beyond graduation and permeates in everyday life. The ability to critically think, argue with evidence, draw objective conclusions, and the other skills honed through science are key to success in almost any profession. There is also a raw beauty that resides in the natural world. I want to be the passionate role model to show generations about the awesome power of a universe dominated by physics, chemistry, and biology, as well as the amazing equations that tie the chaos together.”

~ Kyle Ricio (Biology)

“SMI has helped in an uncountable number of ways. SMI has offered me many opportunities to expand my experience in the classroom. SMI has exposed me to Education 003, 004 and the CMST program, which have given me confidence in my decision to pursue a career in STEM education. SMI also offers advising that helps me ask myself questions that have not crossed my mind. I have the ability to network and participate in conferences, activities and field work. SMI has fully put me onto my road to teaching; I do not know where I would be without this program.”

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With the economy increasingly reliant on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), this is a propitious time to explore and prepare for a career in teaching science or mathematics. Statistics about new California science and mathematics teacher hires reveal that:

- 54% science teachers are not fully credentialed.¹

- 66% mathematics teachers are not fully credentialed.¹

Beginning in 2010, one-third (1/3) or 100,000 of the California teacher workforce became eligible for retirement, which further increased the shortfall of qualified teachers.

¹ California Council on Science and Technology, 2007

CaTEACH-SMI is a UC systemwide initiative program that identifies and recruits highly qualified science and mathematics majors to become STEM educators. The program resulted from a compact between the Governor of California and the University of California President.

Why get involved?

Multiple pathways that enable future teachers to:

- Enter into a teaching credential program of choice
- Establish professional networks
- Deepen subject knowledge through field experiences
- Gain public school classroom experiences early in their undergraduate careers

Personalized professional advising will enable future teachers to:

- Develop professional profiles without delaying graduation
- Become emerging leaders in schools districts, school sites, and communities
- Increase the marketability of their University of California degree

Peer Advising provides future teachers the opportunity to exchange pre-teaching experiences. Informal coaching can further encourage and inspire future teachers to pursue teaching careers.

Professional development opportunities offered in the form of seminars, workshops, and local and national conferences allow future teachers to gain early pre-teaching training either free of charge or at discounted rates.

Financial assistance is available for those who meet eligibility. Support is offered through reimbursements, stipends, and scholarships.

How to get started

Step #1: Sign up to attend an SMI Information Advising Workshop at http://smi.ucr.edu

Step #2: Subscribe to the SMI Listserv at http://smi.ucr.edu/files/listserv.pdf

“SMI has helped me by guiding me through a step-by-step process to arrive to be where I am today. SMI has opened many great opportunities for me such as networking with current STEM educators. I have been given the chance to observe and be mentored by a “Teacher of the Year” recipient, as well as work alongside an excellent educator who teaches computer programing to students in the elementary and middle school levels. Both of these opportunities are ones that I am grateful for and could not have received without the help of SMI. These early field experiences have built my resume, experience, and confidence, thus strengthening my choice in pursuing a career as a STEM educator.”

~ Ashley Wu (Mathematics)

“SMI opened many great opportunities for me such as networking with current STEM educators. I have been given the chance to observe and be mentored by outstanding teachers, as well as work alongside an experienced educator who teaches computer programing to students in the elementary and middle school levels. Both of these opportunities are ones that I am grateful for and could not have received without the help of SMI. They have helped me build my experience and confidence, thus strengthening my choice in pursuing a career as a STEM educator.”

~ Marcos Flores (Mathematics)