

## STAR Mentoring Program Application Process

### OVERVIEW

The STAR Mentor Program was initiated by the Ethnicity, Race, and Multilingualism Committee (ERM) of the Literacy Research Association (LRA) to promote excellence in literacy-related research and support researchers of color and/or researchers whose first language is not English in the early years of their academic careers. The central goal of the program is to support researchers who promote high-quality, literacy-related research that addresses the issues and opportunities related to diversity.

The program is designed to accept small cohorts of **scholars of color who are entering their first year OR within their first two years of their first academic tenure track position.** The program will match each scholar with a mentor and support the mentor relationship for two years. The mentoring relationship will consist of at least two communications each semester, participation in STAR program events at two annual [fall] LRA Conferences, and participation in one spring writing retreat (held in conjunction with the AERA conference). STAR fellows and mentors must be LRA members in good standing throughout their participation in the program. Mentoring/support activities that might occur throughout the fellowship include: (a) reviewing manuscripts, (b) providing logistical advice about how to balance work/life in an academic career; (c) offering information about grant-getting and publishing venues; (d) creating venues for data analysis workshops; and (e) providing access to useful information for navigating the complex sociopolitical culture of the academy. Like any relationship, the mentor relationship

will grow and evolve over time; therefore, the program is designed to be flexible and responsive to participants' needs.

**Scholars of color applying to the STAR mentoring program must be entering their first year OR second year of their first tenure-track academic appointment.** A committee made up of the STAR program director, the ERM committee chair, a former STAR fellow, a former STAR mentor, and the STAR program liaison [to the LRA Board] will review applications and nominate mentors for each accepted scholar. Nominated mentors will be invited to participate by the STAR program director. All STAR program participants must agree to commit two years to the mentoring relationship.

**LITERACY RESEARCH ASSOCIATION**

**STAR Mentoring Program Application**

**COVER SHEET**

Please fill out the following information on this cover sheet and include additional pages, as needed, to answer constructed responses 1-3 (see below).

Name & Professional Title:

---

University Affiliation (as of August of application year):

---

Date of hire in first/current tenure-track academic appointment: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Address, Phone, Email:

---

---

---

Home Address, Phone, Email:

---

---

---

Please identify your demographic information:

Race: \_\_\_\_\_

Ethnicity: \_\_\_\_\_

First language(s): \_\_\_\_\_

LRA Member Number \_\_\_\_\_ (Note: Program participants must be members of LRA in good standing).

This is a two-year commitment. Are you willing to continue the mentor relationship for two years?        (circle one)    Yes        No

## **APPLICATION PACKET**

In addition to the above information, please attach the following:

### **1.0 A COPY OF YOUR MOST RECENT CURRICULUM VITAE**

### **2.0 RESEARCH PROPOSAL**

Please submit a narrative of your proposed area of inquiry during the time of the STAR fellowship (Microsoft Word, no more than 10 pages, double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12-point font with 1” margins, including references). The proposal should include the following:

- 2.1**     Statement of the research problem and significance to literacy research.
- 2.2**     Review of related research.
- 2.3**     Description of design of the study, including theoretical framing and methods of data collection and analysis/interpretation.
- 2.4**     A description of plans for extension of the study.

**3.0 CONSTRUCTED RESPONSES** (page limits noted in parentheses; please use single-spaced Times Roman 12-point font with 1” margins)

- 3.1** Research Purpose Statement: How does your research (or research agenda) address
- 3.2** issues and opportunities related to diversity, equity, and inclusion? (approximately 1 page, excluding references, if any)
- 3.3** What are you looking for in the mentoring relationship? (1/2 page)
- 3.4** What are you willing to give in the mentoring relationship? (1/2 page)

**4 .0 LETTER OF SUPPORT:** A letter of support from a literacy scholar who is an LRA member in good standing (emailed directly to Pamela Mason, STAR Program Co-Director, at [pamela\\_mason@gse.harvard.edu](mailto:pamela_mason@gse.harvard.edu), and Aria Razfar, STAR Program Co-Director, at [arazfar@uic.edu](mailto:arazfar@uic.edu)).

**Applications are due no later than 5:00 pm (ET) on May 15, 2024. Application materials should be submitted (as a single/combined pdf. file) to Dr. Pamela Mason (pamela\_mason@gse.harvard.edu) and Aria Razfar ([arazfar@uic.edu](mailto:arazfar@uic.edu)) STAR Program Directors.**