

Scholars of Color Transitioning into Academic Research (STAR) Mentoring Program Application Process

OVERVIEW

The Scholars of Color Transitioning into Academic (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 completed their first year of their first academic position** and support them for two years. 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 LRA Board Spring meeting). 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 grants 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 co-directors, 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

To apply, please fill out the following information on this cover sheet, attach a vita, and include additional pages to answer constructed responses 1-3 (see below).

Additionally, a letter of support from a literacy scholar who is an LRA member in good standing should be emailed directly to Dr. Jung Kim (kimju@lewisu.edu) or Dr. Arlette Ingram Willis (aiwillis@illinois.edu) STAR Program Co-Directors.

Name & Professional Title:

University Affiliation (as of August of application year):

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

Work Address, Phone, Fax, Email:

Home Address, Phone, Fax, 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:

A copy of your most recent curriculum vitae.

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:

- a. Statement of the research problem and significance to literacy research.
- b. Review of related research.
- c. Description of design of the study, including theoretical framing and methods of data collection and analysis/interpretation.
- d. A description of plans for extension of the study.

Constructed Responses: (page limits noted in parentheses; please use single-spaced Times Roman 12-point font with 1” margins):

1. DEI Statement: How does your research (or research agenda) address issues and opportunities related to diversity, equity, and inclusion? (approximately 1 page, excluding references, if any)
2. What is your vision as part of the STAR mentoring relationship? (1/2 page)

A letter of support from a literacy scholar who is an LRA member in good standing

should be emailed directly to STAR Program Co-Directors, Dr. Jung Kim (kimju@lewisu.edu),

and Dr. Arlette Ingram Willis (aiwillis@illinois.edu).

Applications are due no later than 11:59 p. m. (EST) on **March 15, 2022.** Application

materials should be submitted (as a single/combined pdf. file) to Dr. Jung Kim

(kimju@lewisu.edu) **and Dr. Arlette Ingram Willis (aiwillis@illinois.edu) STAR Program**

Co-Directors.