Our Goals and Mission

For Undergraduates – to encourage undergraduate students at partner institutions to pursue undergraduate studies in the sciences, graduate education in the biomedical sciences, and careers in biomedical science.

PennPORT fellows participate as research-oriented teachers, mentors and role models for students at partner institutions. In addition to their classroom interactions, postdocs identify talented undergraduate students to participate in summer research programs.

For Postdoctoral Appointees – to increase the pool of well-prepared biomedical classroom educators who are also extremely proficient research scientists.

In addition to conducting traditional postdoctoral research, PennPORT fellows receive research training and pedagogical instruction at Penn as well as teaching and mentoring experiences at partner institutions. In addition, they develop other professional skills through Penn’s postdoctoral programs and other programs designed specifically for PennPORT fellows.

For Partner Institutions – to enhance research-oriented teaching at partner institutions and foster collaboration in research and teaching between the University of Pennsylvania and our partner minority-serving institutions.

Science education at partner institutions is energized and enlivened by the investment of PennPORT fellows in course development and mentoring. Faculty at partner institutions benefit from access to PennPORT professional development activities.

Life at Penn

The University of Pennsylvania is located west of the downtown area of Philadelphia on a unified 260-acre campus. We are conveniently close to New York City and Washington, DC, as well as the New Jersey beaches, the Pocono Mountains, and the Chesapeake Bay. Several affordable living options surrounding the University are accessible by walking or public transportation. Many choose to live in nearby West Philadelphia, or in surrounding neighborhoods, New Jersey, or Delaware. The city of Philadelphia is a historic shrine, a great cultural center, and a metropolis that is undergoing dynamic growth. The city is known for its famous museums, parks, theaters, symphony, sports teams, jogging and nature trails.

PennPORT Administration

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What is PennPORT?

Penn-Postdoctoral Opportunities in Research and Teaching (PennPORT), is an Institutional Research and Academic Career Development Award (IRACDA) postdoctoral training program, supported by NIH Division of Training, Workforce Development, and Diversity (TWD).

The PennPORT program combines a traditional mentored postdoctoral research experience at the University of Pennsylvania with a mentored teaching experience at a partnering institution. The program is designed to provide an opportunity for postdoctoral appointees to develop their teaching skills. An integral part of the program is formal instruction in pedagogical methods from the Center for Teaching and Learning at the University of Pennsylvania. Postdocs can also take advantage of the many research and career success skills training programs provided by Biomedical Postdoctoral Programs (BPP).

PennPORT Overview

YEAR 1
Conduct research at Penn
Visit partner schools and audit a course
Attend teaching course

YEAR 2
Continue research at Penn
Fall: Teach preexisting course
Spring: Teach a new course or redesign an existing course

YEAR 3
Complete research at Penn
Begin job search
Continue to participate in career development activities

Teaching Course: Preparing for College
Teaching in STEM
Emily Elliott
Associate Director,
Penn Center for Teaching and Learning

Course Goals
- Systematically plan for a university course
- Develop theory and philosophy of college teaching
- Develop evaluation instruments to assess teaching and learning
- Gain knowledge of individual learning styles and effective teaching strategies.
- Understand teaching in Minority Serving Institutions
- Examine the specific behaviors related to daily activities of college teaching
- Experiment with a range of technologies to enhance teaching

Partnering Minority Serving Institutions

Delaware County Community College (DCCC) Founded in 1967, DCCC serves nearly 27,000 students annually in Chester and Delaware counties. DCCC offers Associate degrees in Arts, Science and Applied Science. DCCC is located in suburban Media, Pennsylvania, 12 miles west of the Penn campus.

Lincoln University, founded in 1854, is the oldest historically black university. Lincoln University offers a liberal arts and sciences-based undergraduate curriculum and selected professional and graduate programs in an environment marked by small classes and quality instruction. Lincoln University remains committed to its historical purpose and to preserving its distinction as an intellectual and cultural resource. Lincoln University is located in rural Pennsylvania, 45 miles southwest of the Penn campus.

Rutgers-Camden started as a two-year college serving the needs of a small group of students. Today, the college is part of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, and serves more than 6,000 students. Its graduates have entered the fields of medicine, law, the sciences, business, and education. Rutgers-Camden is located 6 miles from the Penn campus and is easily accessible by car or train.