ITEST PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT COURSE

brought to you by the STEM Learning and Research Center

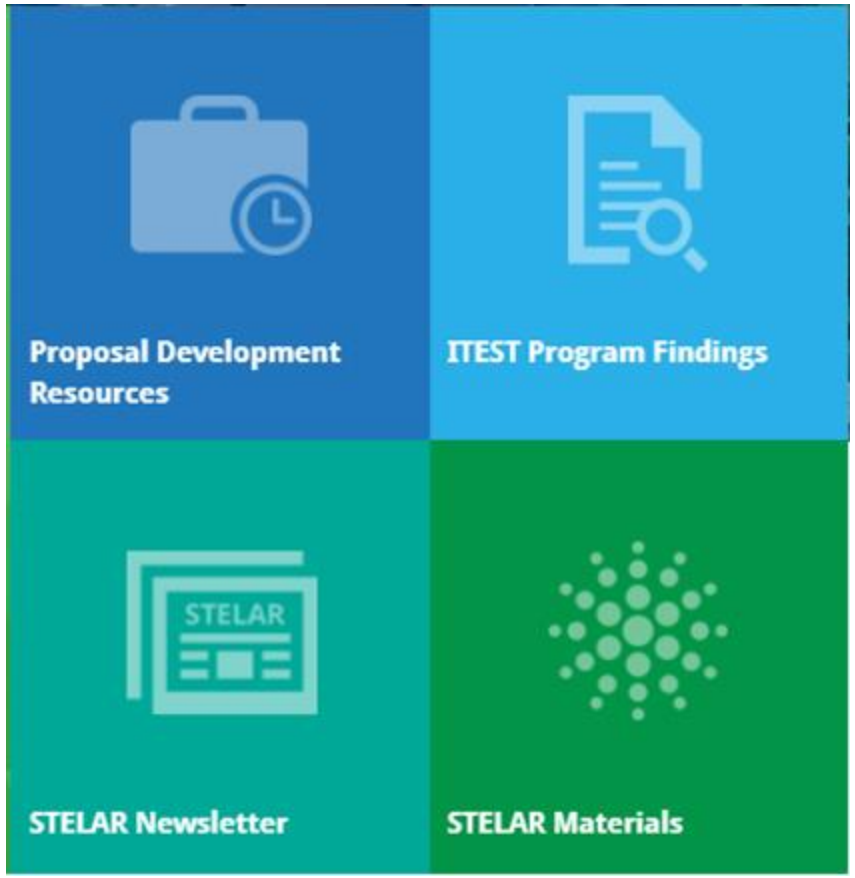
Project Description | March 18, 2021

stelar
STEM Learning and Research Center

OVERVIEW

- Get to know STELAR
- Online Course Registration
- Project Description
  - Technical requirements
  - ITEST Project Goals
  - Merit Review Criteria
  - Solicitation Specific Criteria
  - Writing a compelling Project Description

STELAR's mission is to build capacity and magnify the results of ITEST projects to deepen the impact of the ITEST program.



Our Affiliation with NSF

Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation.

This material is based upon work supported by the National Science Foundation under Grant Nos. DRL-1312022, 1614697 and 1949200.

The STELAR Team

Sarita Pillai, *Principal Investigator*

Joyce Malyn-Smith, *co-Principal Investigator*

Brianna Roche,
Project Staff

Clara McCurdy-Kirlis,
Project Staff

Kissy Canela,
Project Staff

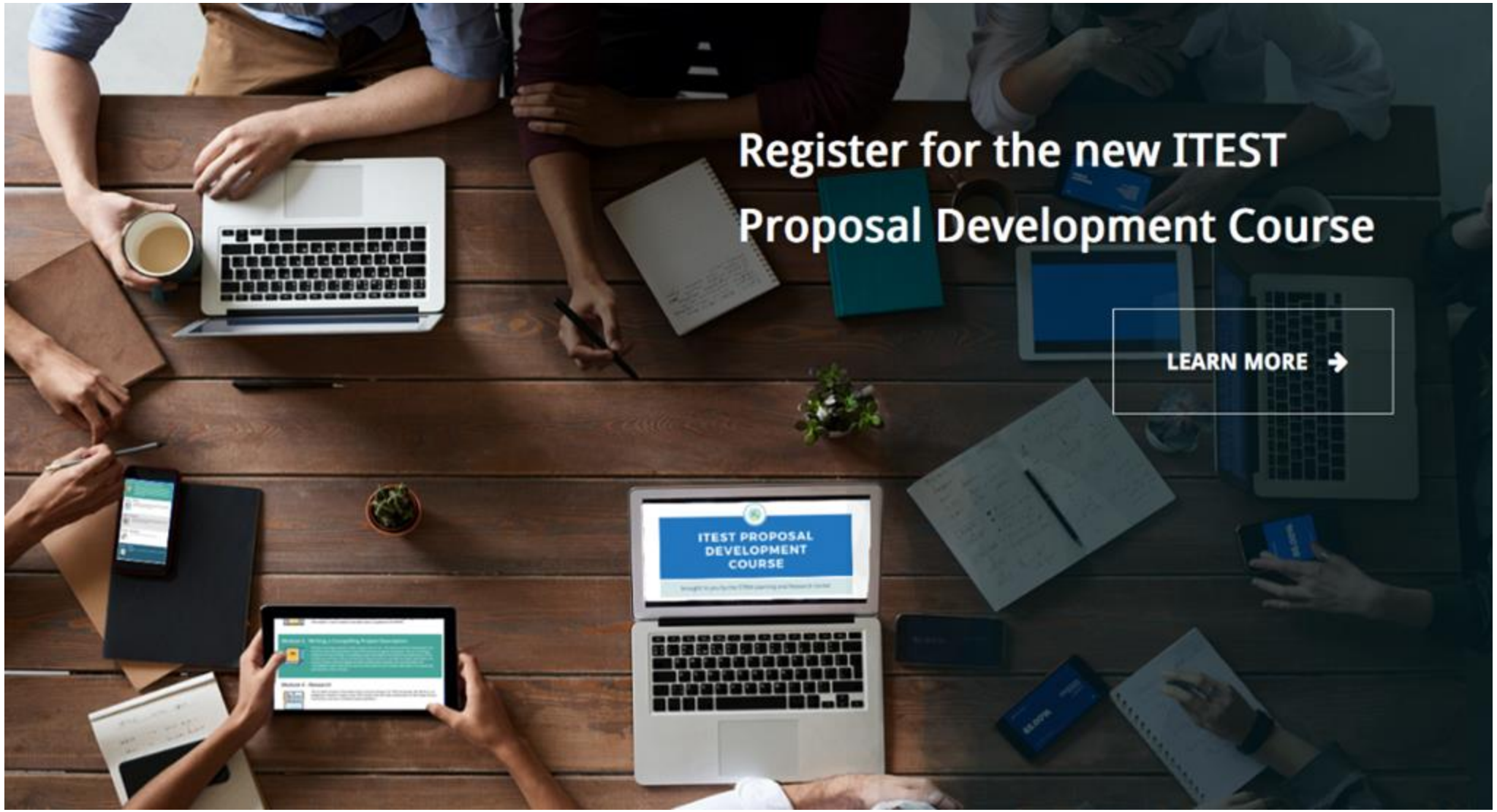
Melody Hachey,
Project Staff

Sarah MacGillivray,
Project Staff

Audience Feedback

Have you registered for the course?

Let us know in the chat!


Register for the new ITEST
Proposal Development Course
LEARN MORE
ITEST PROPOSAL
DEVELOPMENT
COURSE

Course Registration

stelar.edc.org/itest_proposal

Course Registration

New to STELAR?

Sign up! Create a new account and register for the **Developing an ITEST Proposal** course.

New User Register

Already have an account?

Add the course to your account profile!
While logged in as a STELAR user, all you have to do is complete the course questions on your profile and you'll automatically get access to the course.

Existing User Access

Developing an ITEST Proposal

Module 3 - Writing a Compelling Project Description

Writing a winning proposal is both a science and an art. The science involves meeting all of the technical requirements listed in the PAPPG and the program solicitation. The art of writing a proposal involves writing a compelling project description that tells the proposal story. In this module you will learn about the technical requirements for writing the project description, the primary review criteria (Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts), the characteristics of a "compelling" project description, and will draft parts of your project description not specifically addressed in other modules.

Technical Requirements

- Be sure to read the ITEST Solicitation and the PAPPG
- Length: 15 page maximum
- Project Description Components:
  - Project Overview, Rationale, and Importance
  - Results from prior NSF support
  - High-Quality Research Design
  - Project Evaluation
  - Dissemination
  - Expertise and Management
  - Merit Review Criteria
  - Solicitation Specific Review Criteria
- Must also address ITEST Program Goals

ITEST Project Goals

Designing Innovations that Meet ITEST Program Goals

- Innovative Use of Technologies
- Innovative Learning Experiences
- STEM Workforce Development
- Strategies for Broadening Participation
- Strategic Partnerships

ITEST Project Goals

Innovative Use of Technologies

- Involves technologies that help students prepare for the STEM workforce of the future
- Proposal needs to be explicit about how student and teacher use of the technology will develop knowledge of and interest in STEM careers
- Describe how the technology experience is developmentally and age-appropriate

ITEST Project Goals

Innovative Learning Experiences

- Can be in formal and/of informal learning environments
- Both the technology and the learning experience need to be innovative
- How will the learning experience develop knowledge of and interest in STEM careers?

ITEST Project Goals

STEM Workforce Development

- Make a clear case for how your project will foster the development of a diverse talent pool of STEM-literate citizens
- How will your project advance knowledge of workplace related activities (e.g. apprenticeships, internships, mentoring, entrepreneurship)

ITEST Project Goals

Strategies for Broadening Participation

- Describe your strategies for recruiting from underrepresented and underserved populations
- Identifying, addressing and leveraging challenges and strengths of the target student population

ITEST Project Goals

Strategic Partnerships

- Seek out partnerships that will strengthen your project's ability to increase knowledge of and interest in STEM careers
- Describe how your project will leverage partnerships to engage students and teachers in STEM-career based learning experiences

Merit Review Criteria

Intellectual Merit & Broader Impacts

- **Intellectual Merit:** The Intellectual Merit criterion encompasses the potential to advance knowledge

- **Broader Impacts:** The Broader Impacts criterion encompasses the potential to benefit society and contribute to the achievement of specific, desired societal outcomes.

Merit Review Criteria

Intellectual Merit & Broader Impacts

- Intellectual Merit:

  How will your proposed project advance knowledge in the field? What will be learned as a result of your proposed project?

- Broader Impacts:

  How will society benefit as a result of your proposed project? How will your proposed project contribute to the achievement of a specific, desired societal outcome?

Solicitation Specific Criteria

Additional Solicitation Specific Special Review Criteria

- Targeted strategies for recruiting participants from underrepresented and underserved populations
- Approaches that ensure all students, especially those underrepresented and underserved, are actively engaging in the STEM learning experience
- Instructional approaches are research-informed to to build on challenges and strengths
- Learning activities are developmentally and culturally appropriate

Writing Tips

Strengthening your Project Overview, Rationale, and Importance

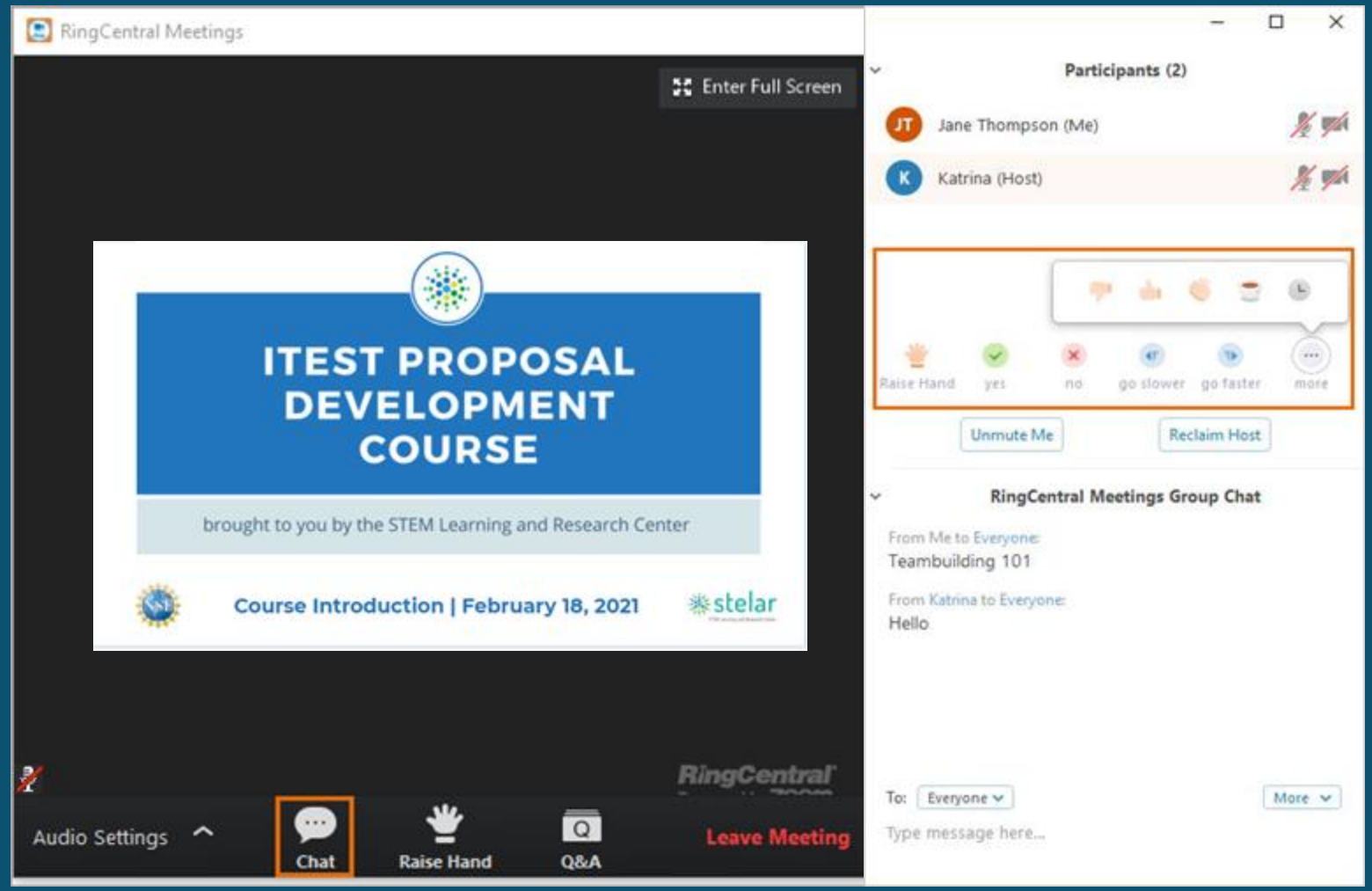
- Begin with a very short (one or two sentence) overview of the project for readers who don't first read the Project Summary
- Include strong statements describing why this project is necessary, documented through data/prior research
- Build upon prior NSF funded research—referencing/citing major known works, research, ideas, issues

Writing Tips

Strengthening your Project Overview, Rationale, and Importance, *cont'd*...

- Describe your theory of change (that is, a description of how and why a desired change is expected to happen in a particular context) (see Module 1)
- Include a concise, in-depth review of the literature describing the theoretical grounding of your theory of change
- Make a strong case that your planned activities will advance research in the field

Q&A


RingCentral Meetings
Enter Full Screen
ITEST PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT COURSE
brought to you by the STEM Learning and Research Center
Course Introduction | February 18, 2021
stelar
RingCentral
Audio Settings
Chat
Raise Hand
Q&A
Leave Meeting
Participants (2)
Jane Thompson (Me)
Katrina (Host)
Raise Hand
yes
no
go slower
go faster
more
Unmute Me
Reclaim Host
RingCentral Meetings Group Chat
From Me to Everyone:
Teambuilding 101
From Katrina to Everyone:
Hello
To: Everyone
More
Type message here...

Upcoming Webinars

- **March 18, 2021**: Project Description
- **April 15, 2021**: Research and Evaluation
- **June 17, 2021:** STELAR Office Hours
- STELAR will also host NSF Solicitation webinars, *dates and times to be announced*

Keep in touch!

stelar@edc.org

http://stelar.edc.org/

Twitter: @STELAR_CTR