



# FACT SHEET

# UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

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## AFRL La Luz Academy Teacher Institute



The Teacher Institute is a week-long science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) professional development activity for teachers, with support from Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) scientists and engineers, conducted by AFRL La Luz Academy. During the Institute, teachers work in teams to complete an assigned STEM project that they present to their peers at the end of the week. Teachers tour AFRL facilities, listen to guest speakers, and engage in various hands-on STEM activities. Their project presentations demonstrate understanding and appreciation of the concepts they have been introduced to.

The Institute's primary goal is to promote STEM education by providing teachers with concepts, tools, and resources that can be transferred to the creation of motivating hands-on activities for their students. We focus on the effective use of inquiry-based learning as it applies to STEM concepts relevant to AFRL research. Teacher Institute participants are expected to develop and implement a STEM lesson during the school year immediately following the Institute. They may also opt to receive graduate credit for their participation in the Institute.

We strive to help Institute participants build relationships with scientists and engineers from the AFRL and other organizations who can enhance their understanding of STEM concepts. In today's science and technology world, there is a new paradigm for the scientific method. It is not one lone individual expert who looks at an event and postulates a theory, but a team of experts with different STEM backgrounds.

Institute participants who successfully complete the one-week summer session become Teacher Institute Fellows for the following school year. The AFRL La Luz Academy provides ongoing support during the school year for these Fellows and provides opportunities and resources as they

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develop their STEM lessons. In the Spring, the Teacher Institute Fellows present their STEM lessons and share their experiences at the Teacher Institute Symposium with their peers.

For more information, contact AFRL La Luz Academy at (505) 846-8042  
or go to: [www.vs.afrl.af.mil/LaLuz](http://www.vs.afrl.af.mil/LaLuz).

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