



Supported by the National  
Science Foundation (NSF)



## The Active Physics Teachers' Community

---

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has recently funded a grant to develop, implement and study a professional development model for the instruction of physics in the classroom. The model couples traditional professional development with an online professional development component and is designed to run simultaneously. The research will investigate how the model will influence the attitudes and performances of physics teachers and their students.

Sample teachers will be recruited from across the United States, including Boston, Los Angeles and other locations. Teachers will be randomly assigned to four groups. Two groups will be in receipt of either traditional development or online professional development. The remaining two groups will receive both or no sort of professional or online development. The effectiveness of the new model will be evaluated with the other three groups in consideration. On the whole, the new model offers teachers lesson plan preparation by providing formal instruction connected to the lessons they will use in the classroom. On an individual level, teachers will participate in a forum designed for sharing and comparing classroom experiences and questions, concerns and success stories.

The project is currently being developed in association with leading educators, research analysts and professional development experts. It is a five year project designed to show the impact of the proposed model on teacher growth and student performance. The new model offers a promising contribution to the professional development field; the model may be integrated into future curriculums in school districts across the nation. COSMIC is very excited to announce this new project and will update the website periodically with future developments.

