

ASSISTments and

*Get help using the
ASSISTments from
a computer
science graduate
student at WPI.*

*The WPI
graduate student
will help inspire
your students to
strive to enter
science and math*

PIMSE

Partnership In Math and Science Education

*Learn to write
your own
ASSISTments*

*Take two classes
in the Masters in
Math Education
program at WPI
and only pay 10%*

*Develop the
skills needed to
do data driven
instruction*

“The fellows that come to my school have been great in sharing their knowledge with my students. They have a great report with them and my students look forward to the days that they are here.” PIMSE teacher.

“When I see that my students haven't done so well on certain problem sets, I begin to question my teaching and try to see if there are possibly better ways to teach my content.” PIMSE teacher.

“Assistment allows me to assess in real time and make adjustments to my lesson plans.” PIMSE teacher.



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February 2012

PIMSE Teacher Application

“Partnership in Math and Science Education” Use data to drive your instruction with the ASSISTment System.

The ASSISTment Project is continuing an exciting new program to support teachers in their use of the ASSISTment System to help students reach their highest potential. The support will come in three ways.

- **First**, participating teachers will take a class in the Masters of Mathematics for Educators program at WPI. The class will be *MME 562: Using Advanced Educational Technology to support Data-Driven Decision Making* (use this link to see the complete syllabus <http://nth.wpi.edu/MME562.htm>). We have received grant funds to cover 90% of the tuition for this course. The class can also be taken as a workshop where the teacher is paid \$35/hour to attend with the opportunity to earn PDPs (preference will be given to applicants who take the class for credit). For teachers interested in earning credits from WPI they will also get funding to take a second class of their choice in the MME program.
- **Second**, the National Science Foundation would like computer science PhD students to have a stronger understanding of K-12 education. Therefore this grant will fund a computer science Graduate student to become a fellow in the participating teacher’s classroom once a week. The fellow will help with instruction and the use of the ASSISTment System in the computer lab. The teacher will give feedback and support to the fellow on their teaching.
- **Third**, participating teachers will be paid \$35 per hour for any meetings or workshops outside of school hours. These will include working meetings with the PhD fellows, WPI personnel and cooperating teachers. The overall, goal of the project is twofold, to help teachers figure out the best ways of integrating ASSISTments into their own classroom practices and to develop the graduate fellows teaching ability. The teacher can do up to 40 hours of this work during the summer.

¹ All opinions expressed in this document are those of Prof. Heffernan, and not necessarily the opinions of our funders.

We are currently accepting applications for work starting June 2011. The MME course (12 sessions) would be offered in the summer (1 Saturdays) and fall of 2011. The Fellow would start working in your class starting in September. So the timeline for the program would be as follows:

Class/Workshop: June 2, 2012, we will learn about using ASSISTment.

Class/Workshop: August 18, 2012, we will focus on Fellows work and class prep

Class/Workshop: Monday night 5 -8 and 3 Saturdays, October – December.

Workshops: There will be two workshops in the winter and spring.

Summer Work, Teacher will come to WPI and work in the summer of 2012 making plans with their fellow. These plans include designing routines for using the ASSISTment system.

This program is for teachers who are new to the ASSISTment System as well as those who have been using the ASSISTment System for years, preference will be given to teachers who have used the system for at least 4 months. The ASSISTment system is a web-based assessment platform. The word “ASSISTment” blends tutoring “**assistance**” with “**assessment**” reporting to teachers. For more information on the system use this link

<http://teacherwiki.assistment.org/wiki/Home>. An important component of this program will be nurturing teacher collaboration so teachers should apply as a team. We will accept applications from any interested teacher although priority will go to teams of two or more teachers at one school.

If accepted, teachers will receive the following benefits.

1. WPI will provide 90% of the tuition cost for teachers to take a class at WPI entitled MME 562: *Seminar: Issues in Mathematics: Using Advanced Educational Technology to support Data-Driven Decision Making* where you will learn how to use data, including assessment data can help you better understand what your students know (use this link to see the complete syllabus <http://teacherwiki.assistment.org/wiki/MMEDataDriven>). The participant will also get 90% tuition waiver for a second course in the MME program at WPI. Go to the online graduate catalogue at <http://www.wpi.edu/academics/Depts/Math/Grad/mme.html>
2. Support from a “collaborative learning community” consisting of the team of collaborating teachers as well as a graduate student fellow from the Computer Science Department at WPI who visits the classroom(s) weekly. The graduate fellow will offer you and your students support, computer expertise and a scientific role model while learning about the secondary math classroom from you.
3. Grant funds will provide stipends to cooperating teachers who meet with their student fellow and participating WPI personnel outside of the regular school day hours.
4. Visits from a math data coach who will work with you, your collaborating math teacher(s) and your graduate fellow.

If you are selected, you are committing to these activities (please check each box to confirm your commitment):

- My principal certifies that my school has enough computer resources and that I will be allowed to bring my students to the computer lab at least once every two weeks. (If your school does not have enough computer lab time available you should not apply.)
- I will attend the class/workshop MME 562: Seminar: Issues in Mathematics: Using Advanced Educational Technology to support Data-Driven Decision Making at WPI.
- I will mentor a graduate computer science fellow in my classroom.
- I will help the ASSISTment fellow collect data from my classes, including collecting the necessary parent permission slips as required.
- I will meet before or after school for a minimum of 1 hour a week. The pay for this work is \$35 per hour. If I am interested I understand that there are additional funds that will allow me to be compensated for additional work developing materials on the ASSISTment system to use in my classroom.
- I will meet with my fellow and other teachers in the summer for up to 40 paid hours to plan for the upcoming year.
- I will use new features of the ASSISTment project (with the assistance of the ASSISTment fellow)
- I will work to form a small “collaborative learning community” with the other teacher on my team, the ASSISTment fellow and the math coach.

We will begin reviewing applications as they arrive.

If you have any questions, or require further information, please contact Professor Neil Heffernan at 508-831-5569, or email nth@wpi.edu.

Return the application by mail, email, or fax to:

Professor Neil Heffernan
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
100 Institute Rd.
Worcester MA, 01609
nth@wpi.edu
Fax: 508-831-5776

Describe the current availability of computer labs and in class computers in your school for use by your students on the ASSISTments Program.

Have you used the ASSISTment Program in the past? If yes, which problem sets do you normally assign? How often do you use the program? Do you ever send the ASSISTments home as a required or optional homework?

How do you currently use formative assessment to drive your instruction?

Teacher (A) Signature _____

Describe the current availability of computer labs and in class computers in your school for use by your students on the ASSISTments Program.

Have you used the ASSISTment Program in the past? If yes, which problem sets do you normally assign? How often do you use the program? Do you ever send the ASSISTments home as a required or optional homework?

How do you currently use formative assessment to drive your instruction?

Teacher (B) Signature _____



ASSISTment Coaching Principal Support Document

Dear Principal:

We are applying to be part of the ASSISTment Project to implement data driven instruction offered by WPI. This project is led by Professor Neil Heffernan of the Computer Science Department at WPI. This program involves having a computer science PhD student come to our school two days a week as a scientist role model who will learn more about K-12 education. This PhD student will get support in working in our school from us and from the program director at WPI.

We will also be taking a class at WPI called *MME 562: Seminar: Issues in Mathematics: Using Advanced Educational Technology to support Data-Driven Decision Making*. We need to have consistency in our access to the Computer Lab in order to maximize the benefit of this work.

Would you please read and sign this statement of support?

Thank you,

Applicant (A)

Applicant (B)

Statement of Support:

I commit my school to assisting (A) _____ and (B) _____ in participating in the ASSISTment implementing data driven instruction project. I understand that this requires assistance on our part so that the teachers and the coach have access to the Computer Lab at least one day every other week (It is understood computer testing takes priority over ASSISTment System use). I also support the participation in our school of a Computer Science PhD student who will be supported by a supervisor from WPI.

Name

Date

Signature