

Joining the simSchool Modules Project

To join the simSchool Modules project, a 15-month technology project for creating open source educational materials aimed at increasing recruitment and retention of low-income, high-risk students into teaching. The project has been awarded funding by EDUCAUSE and its partners, including the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. We wish to solidify all partners with signed letters of agreement. This document outlines the “gives” and “gets” for three levels of project partnership.

If you wish to change levels, you may do so at this time. To become an acknowledged full partner at the level you choose, the dean of your college and an authorized institutional representative (e.g. someone from grants and contracts) must sign and send us a letter of agreement stating or changing your level of partnership. Your letter needs to specify a primary point of contact for your institution. The letter also needs to contain commitment statements that align with the things you will give to the project, in exchange for which, you will receive a letter from us confirming our role and outlining things we will do in return. An example letter of commitment, more details about responsibilities and rewards, and all the needed documentation is included in the following pages.

Summary of the three levels with responsibilities and rewards:

RESPONSIBILITIES	REWARDS
LEVEL 1: Your team of 4 to 5 will EXAMINE the possibilities of fit with simSchool in your teacher education program within the 15-month grant period.	50 licenses (\$4,500 value) for 15 months of access to simSchool Listing as Project Partner
LEVEL 2: Same as above, plus 2 or more professors will USE simSchool with preservice students and share the demographic profiles of those students as a group, along with any informal classroom and/or student-based research results during the 15-month grant period.	200 licenses (\$12,000 value) for 15 months of access to simSchool Your research will be summarized in the Final Report. Listing as co-author on Final Report
LEVEL 3: All of the above, plus 2 professors will undertake both local and project-wide COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH (e.g. will utilize shared protocols with teacher candidates at a variety of levels, share findings, co-author reports with each other and other simSchool partners) and will contribute to a publication by AACE and SITE.	600 licenses (\$36,000 value) for 15 months of access to simSchool Access to competitive \$1000 stipends per professor for module development Data for your own research purposes collected by our learner analytics engine, Leverage Full authorship in a research publication Dissemination of your research and module Invitation to present at SITE and AACE conferences

SIMSCHOOL MODULES PROJECT LEVEL 1

RESPONSIBILITIES	REWARDS
<p>You will establish a team of 4 to 5 professors working with the approval and participation of a department chair and dean to EXAMINE the possibilities of fit with simSchool in your teacher education program within the 15-month grant period. Courses where simSchool has been effective in other institutions include: Curriculum and Instruction, Methods of Teaching, Working with Diverse Populations, Introduction to Teaching with Computer Technology. Participate in data gathering connected with your examination of simSchool.</p>	<p>15 months of free online access to a full working version of simSchool for up to 50 users (\$4500 value).</p> <p>Free access to unlimited copies of research and learning materials on the simSchool EDITLib web site (\$1600 value).</p>
<p>Three brief 1-page quarterly reports that document: (a) how many meetings were held and people involved during the quarter, (b) concerns or questions of the group about simSchool research and practice, and (c) progress being made toward the final report.</p>	<p>An internally published quarterly summary (e.g. simSchool website document) of all Level 1 groups to share with your faculty and others. The quarterly report will list your institution and the team members as Level 1 partners in the project and authors of the quarterly reports.</p>
<p>Brief 3-5 page final group report that documents: (a) summary of the perceived benefits and challenges, and the pros and cons, of using simSchool in teacher education in your institution, (b) whether the team recommends a simSchool pilot project, and if so the extent of the pilot, and (c) your estimate of the potential, if the pilot is successful, for (c1) increases in recruitment (course entry) & retention (course completion and semester-to-semester persistence) in teacher education programs, especially by students from low income and high risk backgrounds, (c2) increases in nontraditional students applying to become and succeeding as teachers, (c3) stronger retention after licensing, and (c4) more highly skilled teachers in classrooms.</p>	<p>An externally published summary report (e.g. by AACE, SITE or others) of all levels in the project, including new research underway. The report will list your institution as a Level 1 partner and your team leaders as authors of the report.</p>

SIMSCHOOL MODULES PROJECT LEVEL 2

RESPONSIBILITIES	REWARDS
<p>Same as LEVEL 1, plus 2 or more professors will USE simSchool and share informal classroom and student-based research results during the 15-month grant period, and participate in data gathering connected with your pilot efforts.</p>	<p>15 months of free online access to a full working version of simSchool for up to 200 users (\$12000 value).</p> <p>Free access to unlimited copies of research and learning materials on the simSchool EDITLib web site (\$1600 value).</p>
<p>Three brief 1-page quarterly reports that document: (a) status of USE of simSchool in your pilot locations, (b) recommendations for improvements and extensions to simSchool to make it more amenable to research on teaching and learning.</p>	<p>An internally published quarterly summary (e.g. simSchool website document) of all Level 2 groups to share with your faculty and others. The quarterly report will list your institution and the team members as Level 2 partners in the project and authors of the quarterly reports.</p>
<p>Brief 3-5 page final report that documents: (a) results of your simSchool pilot projects, (c) your estimate of the potential, if pilot results are confirmed and implementation is successful, for (c1) increases in recruitment (course entry) & retention (course completion and semester-to-semester persistence) in teacher education programs, especially by students from low income and high risk backgrounds, (c2) increases in nontraditional students applying to become and succeeding as teachers, (c3) stronger retention after licensing, and (c4) more highly skilled teachers in classrooms.</p>	<p>An externally published summary report (e.g. by AACE, SITE or others) of all levels in the project, including new research underway, and findings from pilots and implementation sites. The report will list your institution as a Level 2 partner and your team leaders and research leaders as authors of the report.</p>

SIMSCHOOL MODULES PROJECT LEVEL 3

RESPONSIBILITIES	REWARDS
<p>Same as LEVEL 2, plus 2 professors will undertake both local and project-wide COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH (e.g. will utilize shared protocols, share findings, co-author reports with each other and other simSchool partners) and will contribute to a publication by AACE and SITE.</p>	<p>15 months of free online access to a full working version of simSchool for up to 600 users (\$36,000 value).</p> <p>Free access to unlimited copies of research and learning materials on the simSchool EDITLib web site (\$1600 value).</p> <p>Authorship in a peer-reviewed research journal special edition.</p> <p>Peer editorship for the special edition.</p>
<p>Three brief 1-page quarterly reports that document: (a) status of your simSchool COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH, (b) recommendations for improvements and extensions to simSchool to make it more amenable to research on teaching and learning, and (c) a sharable module that is suitable for an open source library of resources on simSchool research on teaching and learning.</p>	<p>An internally published quarterly summary (e.g. simSchool website document) of all Level 3 partners to share with your faculty and others. The quarterly report will list your institution and the team members as Level 3 partners in the project and authors of the quarterly reports.</p> <p>Peer-reviewed modules accepted into EditLib will pay a \$1000 stipend to the primary author.</p>
<p>Brief 3-5 page final report that documents: (a) results of your simSchool pilot projects, (c) your estimate of the potential impact of simSchool on (c1) increases in recruitment (course entry) & retention (course completion and semester-to-semester persistence) in teacher education programs, especially by students from low income and high risk backgrounds, (c2) increases in nontraditional students applying to become and succeeding as teachers, (c3) stronger retention after licensing, and (c4) more highly skilled teachers in classrooms.</p>	<p>An externally published summary report (e.g. by AACE, SITE or others) of all levels in the project, including new research underway, findings from pilots and implementation sites, and the number and kind of modules created by staff and faculty in the project. The report will list your institution as a Level 3 partner and your team leaders and research leaders as authors of the report.</p>

SAMPLE LETTER OF COMMITMENT

Dear Drs. Marks, Searson & Gibson
Association for the Advancement of Computers in Education
Society for Information Technology & Teacher Education
simSchool Modules Project
P.O. Box 1545
Chesapeake, VA 23327-1545

Dear Sirs:

This letter of commitment documents our understanding of the partnership between the *simSchool Modules Project* of the Society for Information technology & Teacher Education, a member organization of the Association for the Advancement of Computers in Education (the FUNDED PROJECT) and our institution, (a PARTNER OF THE FUNDED PROJECT).

We hereby claim status as a LEVEL (1,2,3) partner of the simSchool Modules Project, pending successful acknowledgement by SITE-AACE of this letter and documentation of our participation and contributions as outlined in the attached documents. Our point of contact for the project will be:

Name	Phone
Address	Email

We understand that the attached provisions of the agreement between the funding agency, EDUCAUSE, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and other funders, and the FUNDED PROJECT, extend to us as a PARTNER OF THE FUNDED PROJECT. We agree to the terms of responsibilities and rewards appropriate to the LEVEL of partnership we seek, as attached.

We very much look forward to participating in the project, and to doing our best to study and report on the issues, apply lessons from our research, and create an environment conducive to helping achieve the objectives of increased successful participation of low income and high risk populations in the field of teaching through the innovative technology represented by simSchool.

Signature:	Signature:	Signature:
Date:	Date:	Date:
Dean	Authorized Representative	Project Contact

Encl: Initialed "Level" page listing our responsibilities and rewards

If possible, this letter should be sent via pdf along with the appropriate simSchool LEVEL page, initialed by your institutional representative, to:

david.gibson@curveshift.com
gmarks@aace.org
business@aace.org