The University of Notre Dame's Office of Public Affairs sponsors “Teachers as Scholars”, a dynamic professional development collaborative with local school partners. Eight times per year, diverse K-12 educators come to campus to study, discuss and reflect upon scholarly issues with Notre Dame faculty. Since 2000, Teachers as Scholars has annually engaged approximately 190 public and private educators in discussions of race, religion, literature, and other significant topics from rigorous academic perspective.
ABOUT THE PARTICIPANTS

In 2018, teacher requests to participate in the TAS program once again exceeded available seats. In the end, about 256 teachers were offered spots in the eight sessions this academic year, representing an increase of 6% over 2017-2018. In response, 211 teachers completed registrations to participate in a particular seminar. 184 participants attended a session (87%). The largest cohort of participants, 47%, came from the South Bend Community School Corporation. Of note, 34% of the applicants were new to the program, and surveys indicated that most of the teachers who attended were experienced educators, with an average of 19.6 years in the classroom.

“I will carry concepts, thought provoking questions, and information I learned here into my classroom...Excellent, as usual for TAS!”

SPRING, 2018 PARTICIPANT

TEACHER FEEDBACK

According to post-seminar surveys submitted by participants, 99% felt that TAS increased their enthusiasm for teaching and that they would recommend the program to others. 99% affirmed that their students would also benefit from what they had experienced.

“I will absolutely use what I have gained from this seminar in my interactions with my students. I hope to also bring them to a better understanding of how the brain develops. Awesome subject! Excellent professor!”

SPRING, 2018 PARTICIPANT
FROM THE FACULTY

SPRING 2019 SESSIONS

Tara MacLeod: On the Edge: Irish Traditional Culture
Maurizio Albahari: Europe, Migration, Refugees: Beyond Emergency and Crisis
Nancy Michael: Brain Development and Learning: How Early-Life Experience Lays the Foundations for a Lifetime
Robert Goulding: Rainbows and Lenses: Refraction in History

To date, approximately 136 Notre Dame faculty have provided professional development to area educators through the TAS program. There were 8 faculty members involved in the 2018-19 academic year. Consistent with prior seminars, a majority of professors reported feeling more connected to the local community as a result of their engagement, and all respondents would recommend teaching a TAS seminar to colleagues.

“TAS experience enabled me to feel more connected to the local community. This was just a great aspect of this!”
TAS Faculty, Spring,

Fall 2018 sessions

Maria McKenna: The Philosophy of Maria Montessori: Wisdom from the 21st Century
Kerry Temple: Writers at Work (and Play)
Sabrina Ferri: Cosmopoiesis: Literature and World-Making
David O’Connor: The Perilous Beauty of ‘The Lord of the Rings’

“I look forward to TAS every year. It is my most rigorous PD I attend and by far my favorite. Getting to take two days to read and discuss academic, content specific sources with other educators is such a welcome break from the intensity and demands of the school year. The program is wonderfully organized and beautifully run. I know many of my colleagues feel the same way.”

SPRING, 2019 PARTICIPANT
PROGRAM SPONSORS
The Teachers As Scholars program at the University of Notre Dame was initiated in 2000 through a starter grant from the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation, in collaboration with 30 other campuses. Today, only a handful of campuses continue this unique higher education engagement with area teachers. At Notre Dame, TAS is currently sponsored through generous contributions from the Center for Italian Studies, the Nanovic Institute for European Studies, the Kellogg Institute for International Studies, the Medieval Institute and others. TAS is administered by Notre Dame’s Office of Public Affairs. Director of Community Engagement, Jay Caponigro is assisted by Program Coordinator Erica Futa, with guidance and support from Faculty Advisor Ted Cachey, PhD.

CONTACT INFORMATION
For more information, please visit tas@nd.edu, or contact Jay Caponigro at caponigro.2@nd.edu.

Fall 2019 sessions
Thomas Burman: Beloved Adversary: Islam in the Making of Western Culture
Theodore Cachey: Dante’s Inferno: Instructions for Use
Mariana Candido: The African Past and Us: How African History Can Provide New Ways to Understand the Present
David Hooker: Narratives of Belonging: Discovering the Hidden Narratives that Shape Our Lives, Our Place in the World, and the Meanings of Love and Justice

“The teachers were great, splendid eagerness and camaraderie.”
TAS Faculty, Spring, 2019