

Project STAR (Science/Mathematics and Technology Applications and Research) is a professional development program that focuses on the core concepts in the sciences and mathematics as well as training with new and emergent technologies that have the potential to incorporate mathematics into scientific investigations for teachers of upper elementary students. Project STAR places emphasis on inquiry investigations that occur in an authentic environment of the students' own school and local community. This project utilizes the local school grounds as an inquiry site. The students will be involved in direct explorations of their environment and will be producing and sharing information, findings and data sets with other students and scientists from the project. Teachers and their students will not only have first hand direct experience in a field setting but also will be connected electronically with others willing to share their observations and collected data.

Project STAR was funded by the Illinois State Board of Education as part of the Illinois Mathematics and Science Partnership Program. The grant was awarded to Eastern Illinois University in partnership with Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville for selected teams of dedicated and diligent math and science teachers from 20 school districts in the state. The project Directors are Dr. Marylin Lisowski and Dr. Robert Williams.