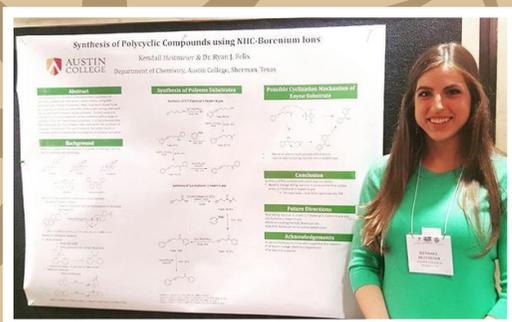## Mission Statement

The mission of the STAR Leadership Program is to embrace the liberal arts tradition and further the purpose of an Austin College education by developing people of influence who are scientifically proficient. This program strives to engage all science students in the study and practice of leadership in their personal and professional lives, and promote personal, team, and organizational effectiveness in the laboratory and classroom. Students will have opportunities to practice leadership through courses, research, and self-directed projects. The STAR Leadership Program provides the foundation not only for successful professional careers but also for increased civic and community engagement.

"Throughout the three years I have participated in the STAR Leadership Program, I have learned invaluable problem solving, leadership, and communication skills. I am now more aware of my interpersonal exchanges and use these skills to work in team settings more efficiently. Apart from being an enjoyable, fun experience, the program has impacted my overall educational experience at Austin College because it is applicable to other courses and situations beyond academics, such as leadership roles in athletics."

—Kendall Heitmeier '17
Biochemistry Major

STEM Teaching and Research (STAR) Leadership Program

This program prepares you to be an effective leader by teaching the following skills essential for individuals engaged in meaningful work and active citizenship:

- understand yourself
- influence a complex world
- recognize how knowledge is constructed and challenged
- communicate effectively with diverse audiences

For more information, please contact:
star@austincollege.edu

Members of the STAR Leadership Program Steering Committe are listed online. Please contact the director or any committee member for additional information about the program.

www.austincollege.edu/star

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Successful science professionals not only are technically proficient and well-prepared in their disciplines. They also have **developed leadership** and **communication skills** that enable them to navigate in the **professional arena**, prepared for **daily interactions** and the **conflict** that inevitably arises in work environments.
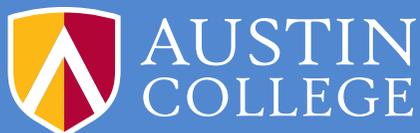
To further prepare students for satisfying careers and community interaction, the faculty at Austin College designed the **STEM Teaching and Research (STAR)**.

This innovative program provides leadership development by **enhancing** the science curriculum with activities that help students **build** important professional skills such as **teamwork** and **collaboration**.

STAR Leadership is not an addendum to course content but is integrated directly into the curriculum as a part of scientific training.

"Through the integrated leadership in the sciences curriculum I have gradually learned how to work in a team in a way that encourages effective results and positive morale. STAR Leadership has become an integral part of my liberal arts education. The curriculum of STAR Leadership courses encourage me to apply my content knowledge in a way that parallels the real world. This is a skill every future scientist or professional needs. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to develop this skill early on in my education."

—Dilan Shah '17
Biology Major

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We expect our students to develop as scientists and leaders to prepare for further study and careers. The STAR Leadership Program integrates leadership studies into the science curriculum for all students. Research offers additional leadership development opportunities. Specific learning points are listed below.

Communicating Ideas
- Express thoughts effectively—face to face and in writing
- Give and receive constructive feedback
- Understand your audience

Collaborating
- Function as part of a team
- Motivate others
- Respond productively to conflict

Acting Responsibly
- Recognize ethical issues
- Act with integrity
- Demonstrate fairness and compassion

Foresight and Planning
- Apply what you've learned
- Reflect on experiences
- Consider possible outcomes
- Understand restraints

Problem Solving
- Understand the problem
- Propose solutions
- Make informed decisions
- Evaluate results