

## October Enrollment in **V-BNGST** and **V-BNGST** Facilitator Pathway Now Available

The NGSX team is scheduling another pathway session, starting in October, for our **Virtual Becoming a NextGen Science Teacher (V-BNGST) Pathway**. Please see sign-up links below. **V-BNGST** consists of six modules. We plan to hold the first three modules on **October 10, 11, and 12**. Then the next three modules will be on the following Saturdays: **October 17, 24, and 31**. The meeting times for all six days are noon to 2 pm, and 3 to 5 pm Eastern. Also, participants should expect to spend 30 to 60 minutes on asynchronous learning for each module.

The user fee for the pathway is \$150 per person. This includes access to the pathway for the upcoming calendar year. The cost of science materials used during the pathway, including shipping them directly to each participant, is \$135, for a total of \$285 per person. Districts who have hosted NGSX study groups may have a supply of these materials that could be borrowed, such as the balloon jar and the biggest sucker bottle.

⇒ **If you are interested in participating in V-BNGST**, please complete the form [linked here](#).  
The deadline for registering is **September 25, 2020**.

We will also be holding a **V-BNGST Facilitator Pathway** to accompany this **V-BNGST Pathway**. The Facilitator Pathway consists of observing each of the six **V-BNGST** modules in their entirety, as well as participating in three 2-hour Facilitator modules before, during, and after the **V-BNGST Pathway**. Prospective facilitators who participate are provided with extensive resources for leading their own sessions, including templates, checklists, sample emails and slides, and facilitator guides. Experienced NGSX facilitators are invited to participate in the **V-BNGST Facilitator Pathway**, as are individuals who have previously participated in **V-BNGST** as a learner, but otherwise would be new to the facilitator role. The dates of the Facilitator modules are still being finalized. The cost of participating in the Facilitator Pathway is \$225.

⇒ **If you are interested in facilitating V-BNGST** in your district or region, please consider enrolling in this session. We understand that your availability will depend on the finalized dates, but for now, please let us know if you are **potentially interested** by sending the form [linked here](#).  
Again, deadline for registering is **September 25, 2020**.

We shared some of our learnings to date from previous **V-BNGST** pathways in an earlier Mini-Blast, and think they are worth repeating.

- Culture building can happen in a virtual study group. Everyone can have a voice, a sense of community, respect and support. Norms can be established.

- There are some amazing virtual tools (such as **JamBoard** and **Google Drawings**) and some **Zoom**-enabled tools (breakout rooms and “waterfall chats”) that can be used to create an “in-person feel” and that support an NGSX hallmark: collaborative sensemaking.
- Participants indicated they could take back tools, strategies, and ideas for hybrid teaching or all online learning activities for use with their *own* students in the fall. This was an unanticipated consequence!
- The design principles to which NGSX has been faithful in our face-to-face study groups can be brought to a virtual learning environment – it works!

If you have questions, please contact **Andrea Wells** (andreadwells@gmail.com) or **Kirsten Boutiette** (KBoutiette@clarku.edu).

We hope you can join us for **V-BNGST** in October!

– The NGSX Team