

# Cultural Institutions in Teacher Education (CITE) Partnership Shedd Aquarium

**PARTNERSHIP OVERVIEW:** At Shedd Aquarium, our mission is to spark compassion, curiosity and conservation for the aquatic animal world. Because Shedd is home to one of the world's largest and most diverse aquatic collections – more than 32,000 animals representing over 1,500 species – a visit to the aquarium offers teachers and students deep learning experiences. Beyond the institution's four walls, there are a variety of educational opportunities

for learners of all ages, including school groups, teens and teachers, which are available in the field and through digital learning. Shedd is committed to ensuring that its resources are accessible to all. To maximize impact, Shedd has partnered with Loyola University Chicago (LUC) to work with future teachers before they reach the classroom, equipping them with the skills, knowledge, resources and community connections for successful careers.

## Shedd Aquarium

### TEACHER CANDIDATE ENGAGEMENT

**During the academic school year, teacher candidates will:**

- Explore the aquarium to observe integrated teaching and learning in exhibit spaces
- Observe the educational aspects of designed spaces by traveling through Shedd's special exhibit
- Discuss the integration of learning theories in exhibit design with Shedd experts
- Learn about the tenets and best practices of informal education and Shedd's Learning Framework
- Become comfortable and familiar with Shedd learning resources
- Experience one of Shedd's structured field trip programs, Science Tech Treks
- Apply their learning by creating age-specific Shedd field trip plans and learning connections

### INTENDED OUTCOMES

**During the academic year, teacher candidates will:**

- Increase their knowledge of informal education best practices and integrate them into their own teaching philosophies
- Increase their abilities and confidence to find answers to their own questions about the living world and gain strategies to empower their future students to do so as well
- Recognize Shedd Aquarium as a community partner, understand the resources and experiences available to schools and teachers and plan to integrate them into their future classrooms

### BROADER IMPACTS

**As a result of the partnership, Shedd Aquarium will:**

- Spark a relationship with teacher candidates that gives them the confidence, knowledge, skills and resources to recognize Shedd as a partner in advancing education
- Continue to cultivate and grow our relationship with Loyola University and the CITE (Cultural Institutions in Teaching Education) members