ADVANCING Professional Track Faculty is a year-long peer network for professional track faculty, designed to provide opportunities for professional growth. This peer network aims to expand on-campus professional networks and community; offer knowledge, concrete examples and models; and enhance the sense of agency faculty feel toward their work and career advancement at the University of Maryland. ADVANCING Professional Track Faculty is now inviting applicants for its 7th year of the program in 2020-2021.

For 2020-2021, the ADVANCING Professional Track Faculty will meet on Fridays once a month.

Applications will be accepted now through June 15, 2020, or until the program is full. To apply: Please send an email to Dawn Culpepper at dkculpep@umd.edu to indicate your interest in participating in the program, and include a link to your faculty webpage or a brief description of your work on campus.

Workshop goals include:
- Increase knowledge regarding new policies governing professional track faculty advancement
- Enhance agency in career advancement
- Expand participants’ on-campus peer networks

Who is eligible?
All full-time professional track faculty members.

What is expected of participants?
Participants are asked to commit to attend at least 8 of the 9 scheduled seminars and do short readings or activities assigned for the session. Participants may also be asked to help facilitate sessions where they have special expertise to share.

Advancing Professional Track Faculty will be facilitated by Dr. Katerina (Kaci) Thompson, Instructor of Biological Sciences, and Assistant Dean for Science Education Initiatives in the College of Computer, Mathematical, and Natural Sciences. Her research initially focused on animal physiology and behavior. More recently she has become engaged in science education research, especially institutional structures and practices that promote excellence in teaching and enhance student academic success.
Examples of Workshop Sessions:

- Introductions and Networking
- Best-Kept Secrets: Opportunities and Resources for PTK Faculty on Campus
- Promotion and Advancement
- Teaching Strategies, Inclusion in the Classroom, and the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning
- The Art of Negotiation
- Saying Yes and No Strategically/Gracious Self-Promotion
- Assuming Leadership Positions: When, Why, and Why Not
- Developing Career Action Plans

Comments from Participants:

“Thank you so much for the information and the opportunity. This is a wonderful and worthwhile program.”

“I learned so much and enjoyed meeting my colleagues. The information was really useful.”

“APTF opened up campus resources, opportunities, and reinforced positive professional habits.”

“Good discussions on sensitive topics that aren’t frequently discussed.”

“[The program] increased awareness about things that can be done to improve/advance career, value of making intentional decisions and planning ahead.”

The ADVANCE Program for Inclusive Excellence is funded by the Provost’s Office, Office of Diversity & Inclusion, Division of Research, Academic Colleges, the Graduate School, and Undergraduate School.