

# **Proposal to the American Philosophical Association Seminar on Teaching and Learning in Philosophy for High School Teachers**

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## **BACKGROUND**

At its biennial conference on teaching philosophy, the American Association of Philosophy Teachers (AAPT) offers a teaching and learning seminar for graduate students. In summer 2014, for the first time the AAPT Conference will also include a teaching and learning seminar for high school teachers. In a similar organizational structure to the graduate student seminar, high school teachers will meet each morning in a seminar devoted to high school philosophy teaching and will attend the regular AAPT Conference sessions in the afternoons and evenings.

The teaching and learning seminar for high school teachers involve a maximum of 20 teachers. Seminar participants, through readings and activities, will explore issues, experiment with approaches, and engage in a community of reflection aimed at developing and improving high school philosophy teaching. Topics will include preparing to teach (for example, syllabus design), developing learning-centered philosophy classes, various methods for introducing philosophy to high school students, using traditional and non-traditional methods of assessment, and engaging in the scholarship of teaching and learning.

The two facilitators for the seminar will be Wendy Turgeon and Steven Goldberg. Wendy is Professor of Philosophy and Chair of the Philosophy Department at St. Joseph's College. She has worked with pre-service and in-service teachers to provide training in philosophy, and has developed an undergraduate concentration in philosophy in the K-12 curriculum at St. Joseph's. Steven Goldberg teaches history and philosophy at Oak Park River Forest High School, and is a frequent speaker about teaching philosophy in high school. Both Wendy and Steven are on the board of directors of PLATO and are past members of the Committee on Pre-College Instruction in Philosophy.

## **PROPOSAL**

Historically the APA has generously offered stipends to defray travel and housing costs of up to \$300 for each participant in the AAPT graduate student seminar, provided that the participants are APA members. We propose that the APA provide similar stipends for high school teachers participating in the AAPT high school seminar, provided that the teachers are Teacher Associate Members of the APA. The remaining housing and registration costs will be paid by PLATO (we estimate the total cost per participant for registration, travel and housing to be \$650-700). Cost of meals, approximately \$200, will be the responsibility of the participants.