

TMT Early-Career Initiative (TECI): Project Opportunities

The 2018-2019 [TECI Program](#) extends opportunities to early-career scientists and engineers to deepen their involvement with the Thirty Meter Telescope by collaborating on “Mini-Projects:” small projects informing specific case studies or problems of interest to the TMT Project Office, instrument teams, and the broader TMT community. Mini-Projects are planned and executed by teams of TECI participants and span the full spectrum of science and technology areas.

TECI projects convey several benefits to early-career scientists and engineers pursuing them:

Leadership and Technical Experience

- Define the scope, timeline, and resources to complete the project
- Organize and work on a small international team
- Apply technical expertise toward completing project

International Collaboration

- Engage with the TMT Project Office, a TMT instrument team, or other TMT partner institutions
- Continue collaborating with early-career engineers/scientists from other TMT partners
- Possibility of visiting a TMT site (Project Office or partner institution)

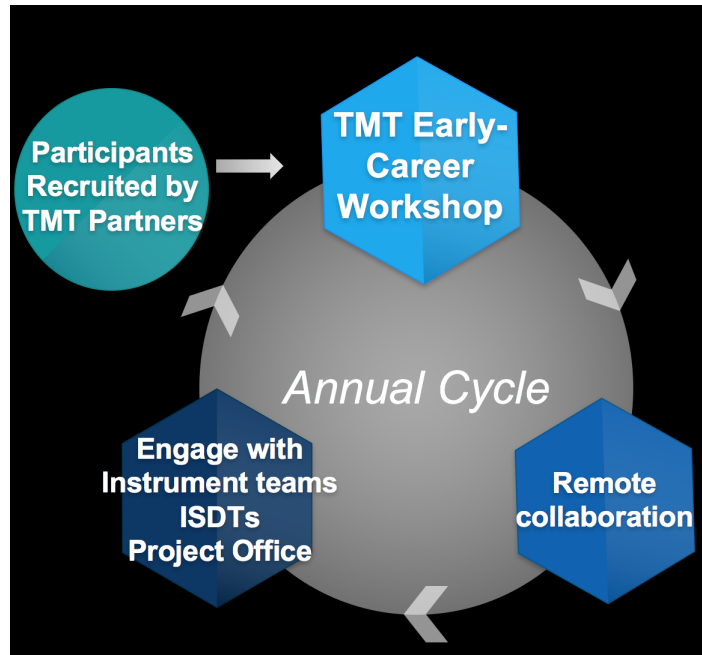
Recognition

- Project teams will be highlighted on TECI program webpage
- Project can result in various forms of recognition within TMT and the broader astronomy/instrumentation community

Mini-Project timing and structure

At the 2018 TECI workshop, participants formed international teams and began working on [a range of Mini-Projects](#), and at the end of the workshop identified potential avenues and next steps for continuation. Participant teams who wish to complete their project in 2019 will submit an application describing the work plan and resources required. TECI requires supervisor/advisor support for participants continuing to work on Mini-Projects beyond the 2018 TECI workshop. TECI Program Managers will coordinate with relevant TMT Project Office or instrument team members to ensure their availability to consult with the team and receive their final products.

Individual time spent on a Mini-Project will vary from team to team. Each team’s proposal will include an estimate of time required, which advisors/supervisors will need to approve before project work begins.



TECI support for participants and projects

TECI pairs approved Mini-Project teams with consultants from TMT, and provides infrastructure for documenting Mini-Project progress and outcomes. Teams may also apply for limited TECI funding to support travel to a TMT site. Mini-Projects are intended as part-time work, and TECI cannot offer a stipend or salary support for participants.

2018/2019 Mini-Project Consultants

Warren Skidmore, TMT Telescope Research Scientist
Jessica Lu, TMT IRIS
Mike Fitzgerald, TMT Planetary Systems Imager co-lead
Kevin Bundy, TMT WFOS Principal Investigator
Maureen Savage, TMT WFOS Project Manager
Renate Kupke, TMT WFOS Senior Optical Designer
Nick MacDonald, TMT WFOS Senior Engineer

Organization and Contact Info

TECI is led by the [Institute for Scientist & Engineer Educators](#) at the University of California, Santa Cruz and is funded by the Thirty Meter Telescope International Observatory.

Supervisors or advisors with questions about Mini-Projects' content or expectations should contact TECI Program Managers:

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