The Partnership for Undergraduate Life Sciences Education (PULSE) program selected 40 Vision and Change Leadership Fellows. The PULSE program is a joint initiative of the National Science Foundation (NSF), Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI), and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to foster systemic change in undergraduate life science education.

Dr. Whitney M. Schlegel, Indiana University Bloomington biology professor, was among the 40 post-secondary life sciences faculty members competitively selected for their experience in catalyzing reform in undergraduate biology education. A list of the Vision and Change Leadership Fellows is available at www.pulsecommunity.org.

“The fellows represent a diverse group of extremely capable faculty,” said Judith Verbeke of NSF. “They bring a variety of experiences that will inform the development of an implementation framework that will transform undergraduate education in the life sciences.”

“We are very excited about the work on which the fellows are about to embark,” said Clifton A. Poodry of NIH’s National Institute of General Medical Sciences. “The PULSE program will help move life sciences education forward.”

“The strong response we received to the call for applications reflects broad consensus in the community that change is needed,” said HHMI’s Cynthia Bauerle. The way biology is taught needs to change in order to spark student interest in science and prepare them to answer challenging 21st century problems. “The time is now,” said Bauerle.

The scientific community actively informed the recommendations in the Vision and Change report (2011). Among these were a recognition that a 21st century education requires changes to how biology is taught, how academic departments support faculty, and how curricular decisions are made.

PULSE will stimulate systemic change in undergraduate life science education by focusing on strategies that drive institutional change. Because a change in institutional culture is needed, PULSE activities are focused on academic departments and not individual faculty members.

The 40 PULSE Vision and Change Leadership fellows will be sharing their yearlong work to transform undergraduate life science education and working in partnership with the larger PULSE community to inform their work and facilitate change. Those interested in being a part of this revolutionary change effort can join the growing online PULSE community at www.pulsecommunity.org.