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Research Spotlight

2315 - Preparing Students for Transfer through Summer Research Opportunities

Diversity and Inclusion, Transition Programs and Services

The Transfer-to-Excellence (TTE) Summer Research Program provides community college students with a valuable hands-on learning opportunity as they prepare for transfer. This presentation will detail the positive impacts of such a program on students' research skills, science identity, confidence to pursue further education, and transfer rates. Furthermore, audience members will learn about the importance of expanding research opportunities to community college students and will obtain information necessary to develop similar summer research programs on their campuses.

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Preparing Students for Transfer through Summer Research Opportunities

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Background

The Transfer-to-Excellence (TTE) Summer Research Program is a nine-week residential internship at UC Berkeley. The program seeks to inspire community college students to transfer to a four-year university and complete a Bachelor's degree in science or engineering. This is done through placement in a research lab, mentorship from faculty & graduate students, and a menu of admissions workshops, research seminars, and professional development opportunities. The program targets students from backgrounds underrepresented in STEM.



Methods

- Web-based pre- & post-program evaluations utilized a mixed methods approach.
- Quantitative: Subset of fourteen questions. Mean scores on the pre- and post-program evaluations were calculated and compared.
- Qualitative: Open-ended questions on post-program evaluation. Responses were reviewed and coded with a priori codes
- Program alumni report transfer and enrollment status annually.

Results

↑ Increase in mean rating on nine measures of confidence in research skills.

↑ Increase in mean rating on three measures of self-efficacy & science identity.

4.40 / 5

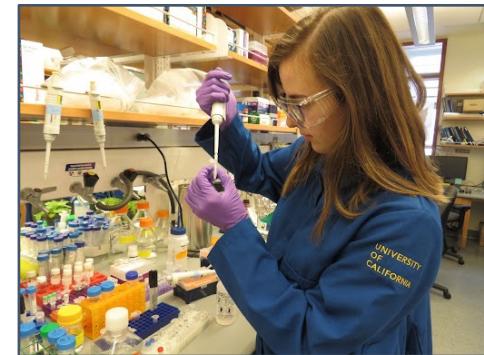
"My research experience has influenced my decision to pursue an undergraduate degree in science & engineering."

4.43 / 5

"My research experience has influenced my future career choice."

All echoed in qualitative data.

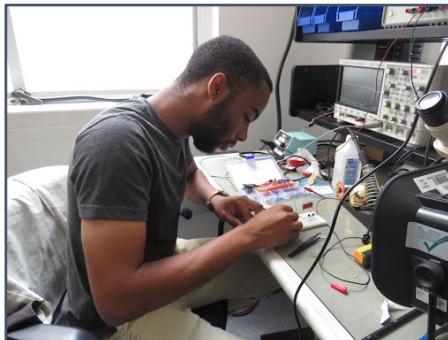
"I learned that I do have a place in science. I learned that I am as capable in my major as many other students."



Conclusions

Evaluation data confirms that, participation in the program enhanced students' science identity and confidence to pursue further education and careers in science and engineering fields.

These gains prepared students for transfer to a Research 1 university. Intern transfer rates far exceed the state average.



Learn More

engineering.berkeley.edu/tte

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