



CENTRAL FLORIDA
STEM ALLIANCE

The LSAMP Scholars Cohort Support Model for Undergraduate Research

Eda Davis-Lowe

VALENCIA COLLEGE

LSAMP Scholars Program

- A cohort support model for students participating in various STEM field experiences
- Part of a broader framework of programs designed for deep student engagement

VALENCIA COLLEGE



LSAMP at Valencia College

Since 2013, the Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation Bridges to a Baccalaureate Program (LSAMP 2B) has enabled three Central Florida State Colleges to collaborate, as the Central Florida STEM Alliance, in their efforts to encourage minority students to complete associate's degrees and successfully transfer to and graduate with bachelor's degrees in science, technology, & engineering, & math.

There are many opportunities, support and tools available to students in pursuit of STEM majors such as career program advising, & scholarship opportunities, tutoring, STEM career & skillshop lecture series, sophomore research experience, internships, educational & planning, and networking events.



STEM Majors

STEM clusters are careers within the fields of science, technology, engineering & mathematics. For the 2B program, there are a number of qualifying & baccalaureate degrees. Examples include:

- Life Sciences: Biology, Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, Microbiology &
- Physical Sciences: Astronomy, Chemistry, Physics, Earth Sciences &
- Computer Science, Computer Programming
- Information Science/Studies
- Engineering: Aerospace, Agricultural, Biomedical, Chemical, Civil, Electrical, & Environmental, Geological, Industrial, Marine, Materials, Mechanical, & Nuclear, and Petroleum
- Math: Applied Mathematics, Statistics
- Architecture



Goals of LSAMP Scholars Program

- Improved retention and graduation in STEM
- Enhanced STEM-related and professional knowledge and skills
- Expanded networks of support
- Increased awareness of opportunities in STEM and pathways to STEM careers

LSAMP Scholars Program Eligibility

- Currently enrolled Valencia LSAMP student
- Have a GPA of 2.75 or higher
- Have completed a minimum 30 credit hours
- Demonstrate progress toward a STEM degree
- Have participated in at least LSAMP activities during the previous term

Scholars Program Requirements

- Meet with STEM advisor individually two times during semester
- Submit a weekly report
- Attend one Library Research Consultation
- Attend all cohort meetings
- Prepare poster abstract
- Prepare and present poster

LSAMP Scholars Program Tracks

- Assistantships
- Internships

Both may offer opportunities in:

- Science laboratories
- STEM outreach programs
- Undergraduate research
- Industry or agency positions

Cohort Meetings

- 4 three-hour Friday meetings each semester
- Workshops facilitated by faculty and staff on topics of resumes, personal statements, abstracts, poster and oral presentations, application packets, external opportunities
- Small group connection time

LSAMP Showcase

- Presentation venue for scholars to share their work
- Serves as venue for other undergraduate researchers to share their work
- Opportunity for students, faculty, staff, mentors, supervisors, and family members to celebrate the scholars' accomplishments

Progress to Date

- 7 cohorts
- 66 students in 72 placements
 - Research – 30
 - Laboratory – 20
 - Programs – 18
 - Agency - 4
- In first 6 cohorts, 45 students completed the program

Outcomes for Completers

- 29 graduated and transferred to baccalaureate STEM programs
- 1 transferred to baccalaureate STEM program without the AA degree
- 4 completers graduated and transferred to non-STEM programs
- 10 currently enrolled with 4 pending Fall 2016 graduation
- 1 not currently enrolled

Lessons from the Work

- Developing a critical number of partnering faculty and staff is key.
- Providing a wide range of opportunities from which students may choose helps widen the pool of interested applicants.
- Connecting to existing work and creating value for the institution promote program integration.

Panelist's Information

Eda Davis-Lowe

edavislowe@valenciacollege.edu

321-682-4938

<http://valenciacollege.edu/lsamp>