**Abstract**

As part of a Title V HSI-STEM grant (P031C110161) from the Department of Education, CSU Channel Islands (CI) is collaborating with its regional community colleges (educational partners) to achieve four goals: (1) to increase the number of Hispanic and low-income STEM students who are succeeding in and graduating from STEM majors at CI; (2) to increase the number of Hispanic and other low-income students interested in pursuing a bachelor’s degree in STEM; (3) to develop and disseminate model transfer and articulation agreements between CI and its educational partners; and (4) to assist Hispanic and other low-income students in their development of critical STEM skill sets including critical thinking, analytical reasoning, scientific literacy, and interdisciplinary communication.

Project ACCESO was funded in Fall 2011 and over the past three years, we have implemented project services designed to address four activity areas:

- Improving the CI Campus’ Capacity for STEM Instruction and Research
- Enhancing STEM Student Success
- Providing STEM Research Opportunities
- Widening the STEM Pipeline through P-14 STEM Outreach

**Introduction**

CI was founded in 2001 and opened for students in Fall 2002. At the time that Project ACCESO was written (2002), 2% of students were either Hispanic OR low-income. Project ACCESO defined its target population as being students who are either Hispanic OR low-income.

CI has seen a 51% growth in the number of STEM majors on campus since Fall 2010 (pre-ACCESO) to Fall 2013. This dramatic increase in STEM student enrollments resulted from a 100% increase in the number of Target population students while the non-target student population remained nearly constant (only a 6% increase). Enrollment trends for various subpopulations during this period are shown in Figure 1.

Project ACCESO implemented a wide range of STEM Student Success Services during the first two years of the grant including: STEM Tutoring, Peer-Led Team Learning Workshops, and a pre-first-year Summer Scholars Institute. Over 4500 hours of STEM tutoring were provided by Project ACCESO. Unfortunately, the baseline gaps have not changed substantially over the past three years; however, the gaps would likely be even greater without ACCESO programming given the substantial increase in the target population at CI.

**Results and Discussion**

From Fall 2010 to Fall 2013, the CI campus has grown 37% and STEM enrollments have increased 51%. During this same time period, the gap (6 - 9%) in one-year persistence rates (Figure 2) between target (Hispanic OR low-income) and non-target student has remained essentially unchanged, and the gap (6%) in gateway STEM course pass rates between these subpopulations has not changed (Figure 3). Project ACCESO STEM Tutoring and Peer-Led Team Learning services are in high and constant demand. Student visits for STEM tutoring have quadrupled since Spring 2012 when the STEM Center was created. CI’s Peer-Led Team Learning (PLTL) has become a hallmark program which engages students in collaborative group work associated with a STEM course led by a peer who recently passed that STEM course. In a pilot study, we found that students who participate in PLTL workshops exhibit higher course pass rate in the course associated with the workshop than students who do not participate in PLTL.

**Conclusion**

CI’s STEM majors have become increasingly diverse; Hispanic students now representing 43% of all STEM students on the CI campus, up dramatically from Hispanic students representing 29% of our STEM student population in Fall 2010. Project ACCESO’s target population has also seen a dramatic increase with 63% of our students being within this target population compared to 47% in Fall 2010. The growth in our target population has coincided with a substantial increase in demand from STEM students for Student Success Services provided by Project ACCESO. Unfortunately, the baseline gaps have not changed substantially over the past three years; however, the gaps would likely be even greater without ACCESO programming given the substantial increase in the target population at CI.

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