Introduction
California State University, Fullerton (CSUF) in addition to three of its feeder community colleges, Citrus, Cypress and Santiago Canyon, created "(STEM)² - Strengthening Transfer Education & Matriculation in STEM", funded by the U.S. Department of Education. This grant project is designed to encourage Science, Technology, Engineering, Math (STEM) degrees, produce more community college STEM transfers to four-year institutions, retain students in STEM fields and ultimately, increase the number of Hispanic/Latino and low-income students attaining STEM bachelor's degrees.

Through the Community College Partnership, funding for full-time STEM advisors along with assigned CSUF Peer Mentors at the partner colleges develop cohort communities and encourage STEM degrees. The Summer Research Experience (SRE) is an eight-week research program designed for community college students from our partner colleges to gain hands-on experience working in a research laboratory at CSUF. The Academic Transition Program (ATP) and Transfer Resource Center (TRC) at CSUF support the transition and retention of transfer students in the STEM majors.

Methods and Results
Community College Partnership
(STEM)² funds a full-time staff STEM Advisor on site and Supplemental Instruction in gateway STEM courses at Citrus College, Cypress College, and Santiago Canyon College (SCC). The campuses also host CSUF STEM Peer Mentors (STEM transfer students) on their campus to conduct workshops and encourage and support community college STEM transfer students. Representatives from the partner colleges participate in the Collaboration Council, an advisory group for the grant.

Data collected after the first semester has shown ATP students had higher rates of persistence in the STEM major and university than the total CSUF STEM transfer class. In addition, the data demonstrated that students in ATP had higher rates on the Dean’s List than the total STEM transfer class. Both ATP 2013 and 2014 cohorts had 51% Hispanic participation, similarly, in Year 3 of the grant, 43% of ATP participants were Hispanic. (STEM)² Transfer Resource Center has seen a 63% increase of usage from Year 2 to Year 3 of the grant. In both years, over 90% of students utilizing the TRC were upperclassmen (junior standing and above) and over 40 Hispanic.

Academic Transition Program (ATP)
ATP assists STEM transfer students to acclimate to CSUF by increasing their familiarity with the academic resources as well as the student support services on campus. Students join STEM related clubs and are engaged in academic support activities such as tutoring, supplemental instruction and office hours. Students meet with their assigned Peer Mentors each month to discuss a variety of topics such as setting goals, study habits, time management, and resources. Students also meet with the Academic Transition Coordinator to discuss how to balance their time between work, family, and academics, and ways to either maintain or improve their grades.

Peer Mentors
CSUF STEM Peer mentors are STEM transfer students who conduct outreach at an assigned partner community college. They collaborate with STEM Advisors to facilitate workshops on variety of topics, from time management to successful transition strategies. Peer mentors meet with students in the Academic Transition Program; they are assigned a group of first-year STEM transfer students and meet with them once a month supporting them throughout their transition year.

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