Increasing the Number of Homegrown STEM Majors:
What Works and What Doesn’t
Science Technology Engineering Mathematics (STEM)
www.unomaha.edu/step

MCC declared STEM majors by academic year

UNO STEM graduates by academic year

THE SETTING

University of Nebraska Omaha
The University of Nebraska at Omaha
Metropolitan Community College

SUCCESSES

ACT test scores submitted to MCC
by high school students with STEM interests
Graduation year
2005 2006 2007
Number of students
40 138 172

MCC STEP Bridge Scholarships by Academic Year
2004-05 2005-06 2006-07
Scholarships Awarded
5 16 30

SUCCESSIONS

Spring 2007: 153 eligible, 50 recipients
Fall 2007: 206 eligible, 73 recipients
Spring 2008: not out of money

Permanent funding established in August 2006
Space innovation completed September 2007
200 students/week are assisted by drop-in tutors
1000 people/week come to the MCC 12 under-graduate staff members
100 student/week utilizing Facilitated Study Groups - New this semester

The EUR program has captured a good deal of interest at both UNO and MCC
27 projects over four semesters
- Including 2 recent URG/MCC collaboration EUR
- 17 different faculty
- 115 students - 186 STEM majors or graduates - 50% success (intention)

PERMANENT

Student Teaching Partnership
Seamless degree completion
Learning center development
Learning center reciprocal agreement

ACTIVITY SUMMARY

MCCSTEP Outreach
- Full-time academic counselor
- Six new associate degrees created at MCC - Computer Science, Pre-Pharmacy, Pre-Biology, Pre-Engineering, Pre-Technology, Pre-Mathematics
- MCC Bridge Scholarships
- Spring 2007 saw an initial 153 students, 40 of whom were STEM majors
- UNO STEP Scholarships
- Students receive
- $2000/year to enter cohort

CHALLENGES

PROBLEM
- 2004 class dwindled from 18 to 11 after four years
- 2005 class dwindled from 11 to 3 after three years
- 2006 class dwindled from 17 to 11 after two years

CONCLUSION
- Many of these students transfer into pre-professional areas such as pre-med, pre-pharmacy and pre-nursing

MOVING FORWARD
- Redirect scholarship offers to students who are more likely to persist in the ASLAS program

OUTCOMES

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For additional information please visit http://www.unomaha.edu/step/