Abstract

The purpose of the UC Santa Cruz SEMILLA Project (Science Education & Mentorship in Latino Lives in Academia) is to cultivate equity-minded reforms designed to challenge and overcome institutional barriers so that STEM-intended Latino and low-income students increase their rates of STEM transfer, persistence and degree attainment. STEM fields are among the most popular majors for all UCSC students, including Latino and low-income students, who arrive at UCSC as STEM-intended. As these students begin their STEM foundational course work in mathematics, chemistry, biology and computer programming, we begin to see disparities in achievement for Latino and low-income students, which results in STEM attrition and fewer students declaring STEM majors. The SEMILLA project is designed to interrupt STEM attrition patterns and social reproduction rooted in both the lack of opportunity for students and the under preparation of UCSC to serve Latino and low-income STEM students. The SEMILLA project will serve as focal point and catalyst for a comprehensive set of interventions guided through analysis of student outcomes and inquiry teams to address barriers both in and outside the classroom.

Identifying Student Needs

- There are high rates of attrition in STEM courses for Hispanic and low-income Students
- Courses have been identified that represent significant barrier to Hispanic and low-income students access

Addressing Campus Needs

- Holistic STEM Counselors/ Early Alert
- STEM Scholars Group
- SEMILLA Scholars
- STEM Transfer Programs
- STEM Sense of Belonging
- Faculty and Teaching Assistant Professional Development
- Articulation Agreements

*Title III, Part F Funding: Assist HSIs to increase the number of Latino and other low-income students attaining degrees in STEM and to develop a model for transfer and articulation agreements between two-year and four-year institutions in STEM.
EOP STEM Counselors provide holistic STEM advising through early alerts (in partnership with instructors, TA's and tutors), intentional outreach campaigns and campus referrals. Counselors are located at Science Hill and throughout the campus colleges (Merrill/Crown, Oakes/Rachel Carson).

SEMILLA Scholars Peer Mentors serve as a support system for the SEMILLA Scholars program, providing one-on-one peer advising/mentoring, hosting STEM focused workshops and events.

STEM Hub Peer Advisers support the SEMILLA STEM Hub (located in the Science and Engineering Library) connecting STEM Students to academic and social resources, provide onsite peer-advising and workshops focused on STEM student success.

Participants Served: 66