Project Description

Title: Minority Student Pipeline Math Science Partnership (MSP2)

Lead Partner: Bowie State University

Additional Core and Supporting Partners: Prince George’s County Public Schools, Bowie State University, University System of Maryland College Park, University of Maryland Biotechnology Institute, Prince George’s Community College (PGCC), and University of Maryland College Park.

This project, (MSP2), proposes to strengthen a long-standing, multifaceted partnership among the essential P-16 players in one of the largest minority school systems in the country—Prince George’s County Public Schools (PGCPS). The PGCPS system serves nearly 112,000 students, with 58% of students identified as economically disadvantaged, 76% as underrepresented minority students, and 17% as English language learners. The school system encompasses 10 high schools, 31 elementary schools, and 9 middle schools.

The project will leverage the strengths of the existing (MSP)2 partnership between minority high schools, Bowie State University (BSU), and the University System of Maryland College Park (USCP) to expand STEM opportunities for students in Prince George’s County.

Indicators of Success

- Goal 1: Increase the number of minority and other underrepresented students who enter science disciplines
- Goal 2: Improve the ability of science teachers in elementary, middle, and high schools to effectively teach science to underrepresented minority students
- Goal 3: Increase and reward STEM faculty participation in ongoing professional development partnerships with K-12 teachers

Challenges that are ahead:

- Recruiting enough K-12 teachers
- Longitudinal tracking of students from K-12 to Postsecondary Education
- A statewide student tracking system does not yet exist. In the meantime, we will have to try to gather student identifiers from both exit and entry data. The universities might be able to identify students placed in high school.
- Longitudinal tracking of students from K-12 to postsecondary education. A total of 110 high school science teachers will engage in summer research experiences with 100 PGCPs science teachers to develop and implement (MSP)2 to engage students in postsecondary education.
- We were not initially aware of the citizenship requirements for paid NSF grant participants, and had to reject many applicants for our programs. We are solving this in two ways: (1) by expanding our advertising in order to increase the size of the applicant pool, and (2) by inviting non-eligible teachers to join some of our core course programming.
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Project Challenges

Current/past challenges:

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