“Get Connected”: A Win-Win Model of Networking and Professionalization

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AGEP: Alliance for Graduate Education and the Professoriate Phase I

- Part of the 10 campus UC system alliance
- TRIPLE THE NUMBER OF URM STEM STUDENTS AND ULTIMATELY ENTER THE PROFESSORIATE
AGEP: Phase I

- Fellowships
- Domestic travel grants
- Undergraduate Summer Research Internships
Humble Beginnings

“Get Connected” meetings began
Winter 2005

Open to all URM/STEM students
17 in 2000/2001
43 by the end of Phase I
Networking and Lunch
Meeting Topics

What to do if your relationship with your faculty sours.

Balancing academic and family life.

The impostor syndrome.
Lessons Learned

- If provided, networking opportunities will be fully utilized
- Allows students and administrators/staff to connect
- Students want to give-back
- Partnerships are formed.
- It’s a win-win model!
AGEP: Phase II

- Summer Funding for Head Start Program
  - Lab Safety Training
  - Library Orientation
  - Research with Faculty Mentors
  - NSF Grant Application Writing Workshops
  - Ropes Course

- Academic Year Programming
  - Travel Grants – domestic and international
  - “Get Connected” Meetings
Team Building
Challenge Course
Getting Connected: Creating Support Systems
Supportive Environment

Qualifying Exam Outline

Introduction and Background
Initial Research
Future Research
A. Bit-Patterned/Discrete Track Recording
B. 3-D Magnetic Recording
C. Heat Assisted Magnetic Recording

History of Hard Disk Drives

- 2.5 in disk drives
- 3.5 in disk drives
- Mini Hard Disk Drives

Today, hard disk drives are embedded in everything from computers to cameras to cellular phones, the need for higher storage capacities.

[Image of a presentation slide with the outline and a picture of a lecture]
Travel Grant Presentations
Benefits of Getting Connected

- Program responds to students’ needs.
- Opportunity to present research in a supportive environment.
- Mitigates feelings of isolation often felt by disadvantaged graduate students.
- Early identification of student struggles.
- Graduate students become instrumental in recruiting similar students.
A Well Oiled Machine

Interventions can be performed

Retention rates increase

Students graduate on time

On-time graduation

Increased retention

Interventions
2010/11 cohort
81 currently enrolled
Where Do We Go From Here?

Peer mentor program

One faculty mentor

2 graduate student mentors

4 mentees

A formula for success!

http://graduate.ucr.edu/gradprep.html
THANK YOU!

ANY QUESTIONS