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BOR STEM Initiative at West Georgia: Our Story

Farooq A. Khan

University of West Georgia, fkhan@westga.edu

Myrna Gantner

University of West Georgia, mgantner@westga.edu

Satyanarayana Swamy-Mruthinti

University of West Georgia

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BOR STEM Initiative at West Georgia: *Our Story*

Farooq A. Khan, Myrna W. Gantner and Satyanarayana Swamy-Mruthinti

Program Overview

Students

- Summer Bridge Program (Summer)
- Interdisciplinary Seminar Course (Fall)
- Research and Peer Mentoring (Spring)
- UTeach Connection (Step 1 and 2 Courses)

Faculty

- Mini-Grants (Fall and Spring)
- UTeach Connection (Teaching)

Summer Bridge Program

- 2 weeks in early August
- 100 incoming freshmen interested in majoring in STEM

The summer program's designed outcomes:

- Give students a taste of what's to come as a STEM major
- Students build bonds among themselves and with faculty

Acknowledgements

College of Science and Mathematics

Biology (Heidi Banford and Nancy Penco)

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Geosciences (Brad Deline, Karen Tefend)

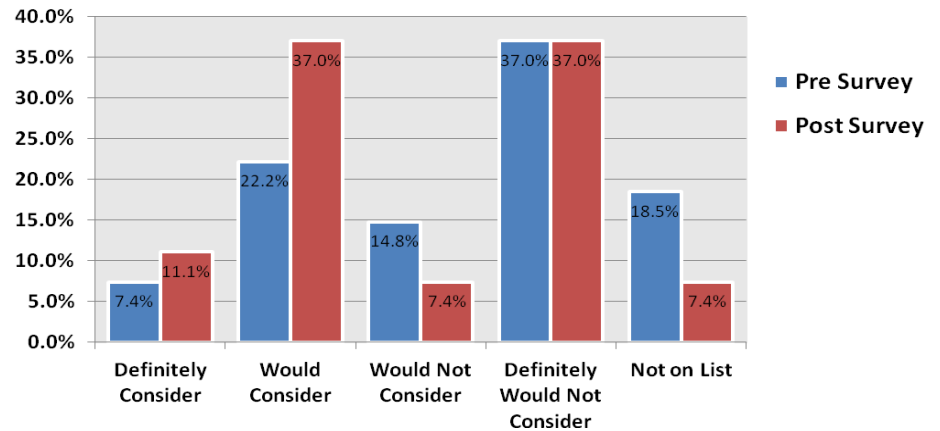
Mathematics (Ayona Chatterjee, David Leach, Scott Sykes, Mohammad Yazdani)

Physics (Ajith de Silva, Javier Hasbun)

College of Education

Judy Cox, Jill Drake, Gail Marshall, Thomas Thrasher

Where would you place teaching (elementary, middle, or high school) a STEM subject as a potential career?



Inter-disciplinary Seminar

Learning goals

- Increased awareness of STEM careers, to include teaching

Design

- 8 weeks - Informal dialogue with invited speakers, professors
- 6 weeks – Selected from 2 tracks
 - STEM communication (anticipated Uteach enrollment)
 - STEM discipline-specific activities

Significant result:

- 38% of XIDS students (N=30) enrolled in UTeach Step 1 course

2012 adjustments based on lessons learned from 2011

- Build more time and structure into Summer Bridge
- Provide intense writing instruction within the context of STEM critical thinking