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BOR STEM Initiative at West Georgia: Our Story

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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

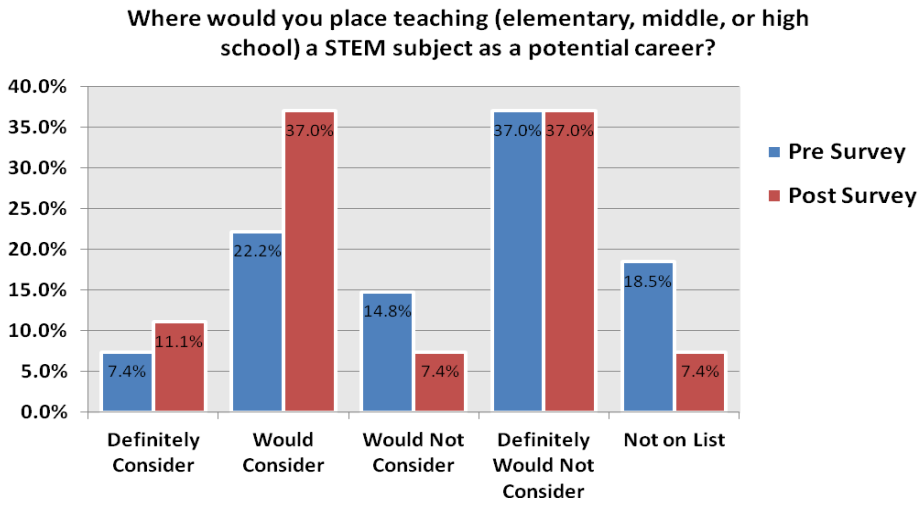
- **Mini-Grants (Fall and Spring)**
- **UTeach Connection (Teaching)**

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



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

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