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STEM II Initiative at Georgia College

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At Georgia College & State University, implementation of the USG STEM Initiative is flourishing and multi-faceted. Our initiative has not only made a positive impact on student performance and retention but also has helped create an environment that fosters local and institutional recognition of STEM-related work. This positive environment increases faculty satisfaction and productivity, and this overall is good for retention of faculty. Supported by USG Presidential STEM Initiative

### Georgia College STEM Initiative

- state’s Public Liberal Arts University
- three locations: Milledgeville, Macon, Warner Robins
- over 6,000 students
- ~ 5,000 undergraduates

#### Faculty Lines

- STEM Mini-Grants Program
- Service-Learning: Project FOCUS
- STEM Retention Initiative

#### Abstract

At Georgia College & State University, implementation of the USG STEM Initiative is flourishing and multi-faceted. Our initiative has not only made a positive impact on student performance and retention but also has helped create an environment that fosters local and institutional recognition of STEM-related work. This positive environment increases faculty satisfaction and productivity, and this overall is good for retention of faculty. Supported by USG Presidential STEM Initiative

### Mini-Grant Program

- to stimulate innovative projects that improve STEM instruction and student learning
- $7,000 grants
- 57 projects funded since 2008
- annual STEM Symposium

#### Project FOCUS

- Provides service learning experience for STEM and STEM education majors in area schools; work with host teachers to develop learning experiences for K12 students

#### BENEFITS

- Inquiry-based, hands-on STEM instruction
- Learning about schools and community
- Interest in teaching as a career
- Service to the community
- Goodwill in the community

### STEM Symposium

- Upcoming: 4th annual Symposium - March 14, 2012
  - STEM/STEM education courses revised
  - Novel instructional materials developed
  - Presentations, publications, external funding
  - Over 3,000 participants impacted
  - Empowering and valuing faculty, staff, and students
  - Recognition of STEM-related work

### Service Learning: Project FOCUS

- Victoria Deneroff: Bridging Theory-Practice Gaps in STEM Teacher Preparation
- Amanda Chase and Samuel Mutiti: Isolating, Identifying and Characterizing Bacteriophages

### STEM Retention Initiative

- FY07 → FY11
  - 24% increase in STEM/STEM Ed majors
  - 81% increase in STEM degrees conferred
  - 11% increase in STEM Ed degrees

- New faculty SI coordinator
- SIs in 55 sections of introductory STEM courses
- Data collection on effectiveness

### Supplemental Instructors

- Advanced undergraduates in targeted STEM courses to provide academic support.