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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.

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.

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

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

Service Learning: Project FOCUS
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

Supplemental Instructors
Supplemental instructors are advanced undergraduates in targeted STEM courses to provide academic support.

FY12
• new faculty SI coordinator
• SIs in 55 sections of introductory STEM courses
• data collection on effectiveness