

Council of Graduate Schools ETS/CGS Award for Innovation in Promoting Success in Graduate Education: From Admission to Completion



PASSAGE Scholars Program

PROMOTING SUCCESSIN STEM GRADUATE EDUCATION PaSSaGE Scholars Program

- The New Dean's Vision
- The proposal writing process
- The PASSAGE Scholars Program
- Observations



The New Dean's Vision for the Graduate College

To move the GC from an administrative/compliance college to one that serves students' needs with respect to:

- Professional development and career preparation
- Stipend funding to promote timely degree completion
- Graduate program relevance to contemporary careers and overall program quality
- Reorganize diversity efforts to emphasize undergraduate research experience and graduate mentoring initiatives



The Proposal Writing Process

1st Meeting

We started late and had one month to submit!

- First meeting: Dean and two diversity group members
- Decisions made: Focus on STEM graduate students and improving the undergraduate to faculty pipeline.
- First draft: Completed in 10 days



The Proposal Writing Process

Important Steps

1. Carefully define your target group.

Incoming URM STEM PhD students

2. Evaluate gaps in services.

URM undergraduate to faculty pipeline

3. Determine which service gap matches the award.

What can you do with \$30,000?

4. The proposal must respond to the award's focus.

"From Admission to Completion"

5. Think outside the box and seek input from outside the group.



The Proposal Writing Process

1st Draft

- First draft was good, but too broad, incorporated our new initiatives and wasn't clear how money would be used, or how it encompassed the “from admission to completion” theme
- Second meeting brought in additional people from within and outside of the diversity group to brain-storm
- Rewrote quickly.



The Proposal Writing Process

2nd Draft

1. Carefully define your target group.

Incoming URM STEM PhD students

2. Evaluate gaps in services.

URM undergraduate to faculty pipeline....specifically, a summer doctoral transition program to give URM STEM PhD students a head start on their research.

3. Determine which service gap matches the award.

What can you do with \$30,000? Fund housing and stipends for six students in the summer before they start graduate school.



The Proposal Writing Process

2nd Draft (cont'd)

4. The proposal must respond to the award's focus - *"From Admission to Completion"*

\$500 - Added incentives for completion of preliminary/ qualifying exam to go to discipline specific meeting or course

\$500 – Added for completion of degree to travel to job interviews.

5. Seek advice from outside the group.

Our special projects coordinator, a History graduate student, could see through the details and identified our focus!



The PASSAGE Scholars Program

Target Group

- A summer doctoral transition experience for 6 incoming URM STEM PhD students.

Experience

- A summer research rotation or independent study supervised by a faculty mentor in their new department
- A series of weekly workshops led by faculty and PhD candidates
- Assigned senior graduate students as peer-mentors



The PASSAGE Scholars Program

Logistics

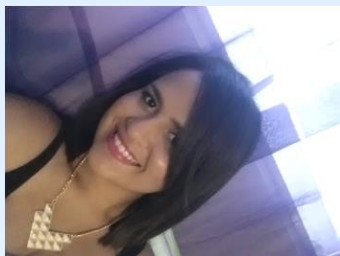
- Students live as a group in two bedroom suites in one of the new on-campus apartment dorms. We arrange and pay for housing.
- Students are admitted early and register for a “research rotation” or graduate research course in their respective departments/programs.
- We waive tuition and pay fees associated with summer semester. Students receive an \$4000 stipend for the summer +\$300 for dining on campus.

Selection

- Competitive application, students selected by faculty advisory committee who also determined final program structure and who facilitate weekly workshops



UIC PASSAGE Scholars 2014



Loru Delgado Rivera
UPR – Rio Piedras
Medicinal Chemistry



Amanda Henderson
DePaul University
Biological Sciences



Kayleigh Tovar
UIC
Microbiology



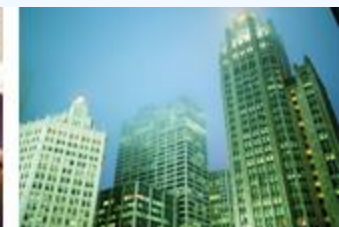
Lola Adeyemo
U. of Miami
Physiology & Biophysics



Nathan Lopez
UCSB
Mathematics



Laura Segura
Agnes Scott College
Neuroscience



UIC PASSAGE Scholars 2013



Braulio Rodriguez
Fairfield State University
Biological Sciences
LAS



Vanessa Nepomuceno
U of South Carolina
Pharmacognosy
COP



Chris Perez
CalTech
Mathematics
LAS



Kevin Misset
UCSD
Mathematics
LAS



Magdalis Gonzalez-Vega
U of Puerto Rico-Mayaguez
Department of Physiology and Biophysics
COM



Ben Richardson
U of Chicago
Medicinal Chemistry
COP



PASSAGE SCHOLARS PROGRAM



PASSAGE Scholars Calendar Summer 2014

Week One

June 16 th	Program begins, students move in
June 17 th	Orientation, department and lab visits
June 18 th	Campus tour, get IDs
June 19 th	To Lab/Department!
June 20 th	Behind the scenes guided tour of Field Museum

Students doing research full time except for 4 workshops:

June 27 th	Workshop 1: What to Expect in Grad School
July 11 th	Workshop 2: Reading and Analyzing a Research Paper
July 25 th	Workshop 3: Writing a Research Paper/Abstract
August 8 th	Workshop 4: Giving a Research Talk

Final Program Report Due on August 8th (last day) - Presentation

Students can remain in housing until August 15th

Semester starts August 25th



PASSAGE Scholars Orientation and Workshop #1



Scholars Meet

- Research Mentors
- Grad College Staff
- Faculty Advisory Group
- Senior Grad Students



Scholars and their Peer Mentors at the Field Museum

Scholars w/ Lunaire and Aixa



Magdalis and Geovannie



Scholars and their Peer-mentors



Cristian and Ben



Tristesse and Vanessa



Observations

Students

- Reaching academic milestones – early!
- Developing Relationships - roommates and social activities

Program

- Added incentive to our recruitment efforts
- Connecting students to other funding and programs



Thank you!

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