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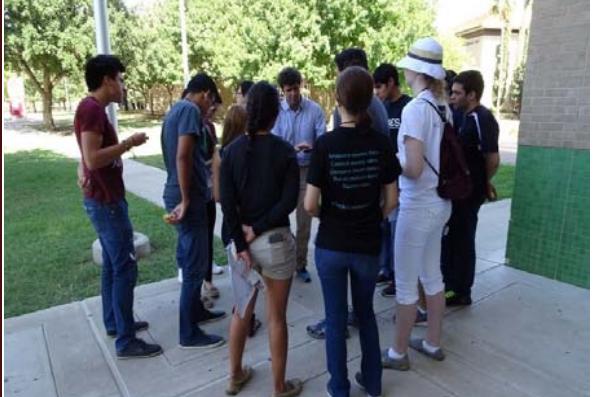
Building Scholars

Texas A&M International University
Department of Mathematics and Physics

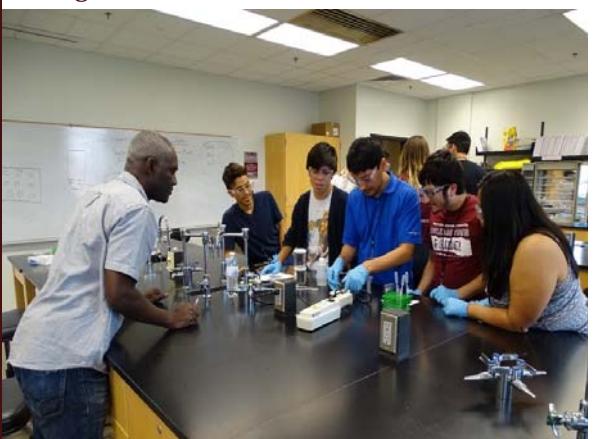
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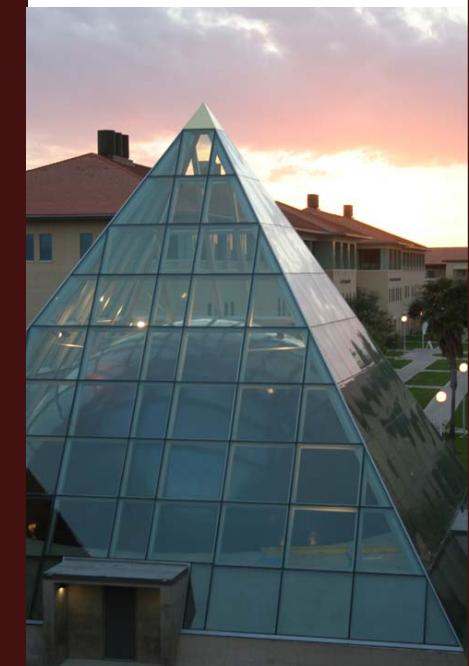


Introduction to Problem Solving in Engineering Module with Dr. Tariq H. Tashtoush.



Introduction to Forensic Chemistry Module with Dr. Alfred K. Addo-Mensah

Building Scholars



Mission

To increase the number of Hispanic and low-income students involved in original research.



About the Program

TAMIU and LCC jointly serve the predominately Hispanic community, a group historically underrepresented in research careers and positions of leadership in the nation. The goal of this program is to increase the number of Hispanic and low-income students completing a college degree, thus increasing the competency and diversity of our workforce. Building Scholars consist of activities developed by Texas A&M International University (TAMIU) and Laredo Community College (LCC), including: (a) Provide undergraduate research and presentation opportunities across disciplines and develop a summer research week, (b) Implement a program for departmental faculty to teach University Seminar 1102 to first-year students that is discipline specific, (c) Provide specialized resources and instruction for all developmental students, (d) Improve the number of full-time students who have a developmental background that persist and graduate, (e) Fund travel to professional conferences for training, building collaborations & presenting research results, (f) Host an annual faculty development training for faculty at both institutions, (g) Perform analysis on current protocols for sharing data and make recommendations and improvements, and (h) Track student progress and retention.



Congressman Henry Cuellar presents \$1.5 million in Grants to TAMIU for STEM Programs which include the TAMIU Building Scholars.

Summer Research Week

This workshop takes place every summer, mostly in July. It is a week long workshop that includes 10 modules. Students will complete 30 hours of lecture and activities to embellish their research experience. Participating in this workshop will expose students to cutting edge research techniques and methodologies that are applicable to a wide range of fields. Participants will be trained in developing testable hypotheses, utilizing technology and critical thinking to analyze data, drawing appropriate conclusions, as well as the effective communication of experimental results.



Participants of Summer Research Week work on hands-on activities promoting their discipline-specific undergraduate research capabilities.

Undergraduate Research

One of the Building Scholars Program's goal is to engage undergraduate students in original research. Undergraduate research experiences enhance the quality of the student's learning experience and promote a variety of important skills. Our current faculty has the background and training to mentor undergraduate research projects in a wide range of fields including biology, chemistry, engineering, mathematics, physics, sociology, psychology, communications, business, education, humanities, public affairs and nursing. Sharing research results among colleagues is an important step in building expertise in the field, and it is expected that faculty members involved in research with undergraduate students include students in their research and publications.

Faculty Development

The faculty development workshop is held every year during the Spring semester. It is led by a speaker who provides tools that can further promote undergraduate research. The general format is the presentation, activities, discussion and time for a Q&A session.



Dr. Linda R. Zientek's presentation at the annual faculty workshop that took place March 24, 2017.

Grant Activities at LCC

Advising & Mentoring

LCC offers academic support in the form of quality advising and mentoring in line with the goal of increasing the number of Hispanic students pursuing and completing a college degree.

Supplemental Instruction

LCC provides supplemental instruction which are regularly scheduled, informal review sessions in which students compare notes, discuss readings, develop organizational tools, and predict test items. Students learn how to integrate course content and study skills while working together.

Academic Bootcamps

These bootcamps will be held in the summer for developmental students who wish to accelerate their entrance into college level courses. The Texas Success Initiative (TSI) camps are utilized to prepare students with effective testing strategies pertaining to the disciplines of Reading, Writing, and Mathematics.