MISSION
The Iowa Illinois Nebraska STEM Partnership for Innovation in Research and Education (IINSPIRE) is an NSF LSAMP alliance among sixteen two-year and four-year colleges and universities working together to broaden the participation of underrepresented minorities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education in the Midwest. The IINSPIRE Alliance colleges and universities collaborate to support students, increase their success, and provide students in the alliance with academic, research, training, and mentoring opportunities

- Grow the pool of college-ready, STEM-prepared URM high school students.
- Increase the number of URM students who choose STEM at each IINSPIRE Alliance institution.
- Improve retention at all IINSPIRE Alliance institutions.

GOAL
The IINSPIRE Alliance goal is to double the number of underrepresented minority (URM) STEM graduates in the alliance within five years to 350 graduates and to build a foundation for greater increases in future years.

OBJECTIVES

- Inform teachers, counselors, parents and students in Iowa, Illinois and Nebraska about IINSPIRE-LSAMP and increase their awareness about STEM careers. Engage current alliance students having interest and potential in STEM and increase their awareness about STEM majors and careers. Collaborate with community-based recruiting models within the alliance.
- Leverage and create initiatives that assist students in their transitions from high school to college and from community colleges to bachelor-granting institutions. Connect students with peer mentors.
- Facilitate faculty collaboration and peer groups across the alliance to share inclusive pedagogy and mentoring practices that lead to greater student success.
- Connect and support students with mentored research opportunities. Organize research training experiences for alliance students to earn a research certificate.
- Provide training and resources for mentors who supervise undergraduate research projects.
- Organize and manage IINSPIRE-LSAMP team members and activities to achieve project goals. Leverage institutional resources and partnerships, and use alliance and institutional data to implement effective programs based on institution-specific needs.
- Track student participation and enrollment statistics. Assess alliance-wide and institutional outcomes and use evaluation results to inform and improve practices.

FACULTY OPPORTUNITIES

- Workshops: Mentoring training workshops for faculty and graduate students working with URM STEM students.
- Undergraduate Research: Hosting IINSpire LSAMP students for research experience or internships.
- Faculty Peer Networks: Collaboration across alliance on pedagogy development and mentoring.

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