The Transfer-student Research and Integration Program at the University of Central Florida

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Abstract

The Transfer-student Research and Integration Program (TRIP) prepares life science students for placement in graduate school or the STEM workforce by supporting their professional development and integration into the UCF community. TRIP students also receive a team-based research experience and an opportunity to present at regional conferences. An $8,000 scholarship distributed over the course of the 2-year program reduces financial barriers and encourages students to spend more time on campus and in a research environment. This poster provides an overview of the challenges facing transfer students, the solutions offered by TRIP, and early outcomes from the first cohort of our National Science Foundation-sponsored program.

Introduction to Research

Goals
- Understand the culture of research
- Preparation for a research experience
- Raise awareness of life science careers
- Preparation for graduate school & the workforce

Representative Activities
- Attend a research seminar
- Find a summer research experience
- Identify the qualifications for a dream job
- Write an individual development plan & resume

Workshops & Integration

Goals
- Professional development
- Community integration
- Build a peer support network

Activities
- UCF-sponsored workshops
- TRIP orientation
- Low and high ropes
- Socials
- Knights Give Back

GEAR

Group Effort Applied Research

Traditional
- Limited student participation
- Variable monitoring
- Variable project progress

GEAR
- Single student participation
- Consistent mentoring
- Variable group success
- Consistent project progress

Keys to Success
- Administrative experience
- An outstanding GTA
- Mitigate transfer shock
- Low stress / high impact practices

Student Enthusiasm
- Peer support
- GEAR
- Additional research experiences

Room for Improvement
- Workshop selection
- Clarify the time commitment for GEAR
- Reach more potential applicants

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