



Texas | Campus Compact



Texas Campus Compact and Austin Community College District's STEM in Action Community Impact Program

Patricia Paredes, M.A.
Executive Director

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Dr. George Wright
President
Prairie View A&M University

The Colorado Building
702 Colorado Street
Suite 1.118
Austin, Texas 78701
T. 512.579.5025
F. 512.579.5028
texascampuscompact.org

Executive Summary

Key Points of Program

Texas Campus Compact [TXCC] and Austin Community College District (ACC) present the **STEM in Action Community Impact (STEM in Action CI)** program model for incorporating civic engagement (CE) and service learning (SL) components into science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) curriculum at the high school, community college, and university levels. The program, funded by The Office of the Governor with Wagner-Peyser funds in the amount of \$102,040, will develop a model of civic engagement and service learning opportunities for students pursuing education degrees with certifications in STEM areas. STEM in Action CI will recruit individuals under-represented within STEM education.

The program is designed to provide opportunities for college students at ACC pursuing teaching degrees with certifications in STEM areas to participate in CE / SL projects and to receive scholarships for continuing their education at a four-year institution, ultimately receiving a bachelors degree in education.

STEM in Action CI will develop a peer mentoring network for students pursuing education degrees in STEM areas, allowing participants at the community college level to connect with and form a relationship with another education student seeking certification in a STEM area at a four-year institution. Likewise, ACC students participating in the STEM in Action CI program will serve as mentors to high school students interested in pursuing STEM educator careers. The STEM in Action CI project will develop informal faculty mentoring networks between instructors at four-year institutions and the community college.

STEM in Action CI will provide online and classroom-based professional development opportunities for high school and community college instructors on how to incorporate effective and meaningful SL and CI opportunities into STEM curriculum courses. These new professional development programs will be incorporated into pre-existing successful teacher training programs offered through programs at ACC: The Capital Area Technical Preparation Consortium (Tech Prep) and the Texas Regional Collaborative for Excellence in Science Education. These programs will also help to establish best practices in the field of CE and SL, to be replicated statewide.

STEM in Action CI will recruit individuals historically under-represented in STEM education and employment. ACC programs, from learning labs, supplemental instruction, the GET SMART program, developmental education, and career and academic advising will support their success. The STEM in Action CI Coordinator at ACC will assist individuals in accessing these and other College support systems, as needed. The future impact of successfully contacting, encouraging, enrolling, and supporting these students is great, as it will increase the number of workforce professionals from under-represented groups, and eventually establishes a pipeline of public school and college teachers prepared to teach in STEM areas.



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Population to be Served

STEM in Action CI will serve high school instructors through the Texas Regional Collaborative for Excellence in Science Education and through the Tech Prep Summer Institute. In 2007, these programs served approximately 100 instructors. STEM in Action CI will serve these instructors and additional high school teachers, as the online modules are made available to different schools in different school districts throughout ACC's service area.

The program will serve ACC students enrolled in the education department and its GET SMART program. In fall 2006, the department served 168, 27% received Pell grants and 29% were from groups traditionally under-represented in STEM educator training.

The online STEM in Action CI resource center will expand the potential number of individuals served under the program, as will faculty and student peer mentoring. Ultimately, the gains in STEM-knowledgeable educators and employees throughout central Texas will be greatly expanded and enhanced.

First Year Outcomes

Total Number of Students Enrolled and Served: 7,650

- 150 currently enrolled ACC Education Instruction students will be served by the STEM in Action-CI program, and eight of these students will receive STEM in Action-CI scholarships.
- 7,500 high school students (with the potential to reach 9,000) whose instructors receive the STEM in Action-CI professional development offering and implement SL/CE opportunities in their classrooms.

Total Number of Instructors Trained by STEM in Action-CI Professional Development Curriculum: 148

- 115 high school instructors through the Tech Prep Summer Academy (75) and the Texas Regional Collaborative for Excellence in Science Education (40).
 - 8 Education Instruction faculty at ACC.
- 25 additional high school instructors, as the online professional development modules are offered through one additional ISD.

Total Number of Individuals Participating in Mentoring: 32

- 8 Four-year institution to community college student peer mentoring participants.
 - 8 Community College students will mentor high school students.
- 16 Four-year institution to community college informal faculty mentoring participants.