Completion and Attrition in AGEP and non-AGEP Institutions

Technical Workshop
CGS Annual Meeting
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Overview

- “Completion and Attrition in AGEP and non-AGEP Institutions”
- Funded by the National Science Foundation (Grant #1138814)
- Goal:
  - Contribute to our understanding of underrepresented minority (URM) student completion and attrition in STEM doctoral programs
Background - Ph.D. Completion

- Early research: 1950-2000
  - 33-75% completion, 11-68% attrition
  - Completion
    - Life Sciences > Physical Sciences > Social Sciences > Humanities
    - Men > Women
    - White > Minorities
Background - Ph.D. Completion

- CSG Ph.D. Completion Project (Phase I)
  - 57% completion (10-yr), 31% attrition
  - Completion
    - Engineering/Life Sciences > Social Sciences > Physical Sciences > Humanities
    - Men > Women
    - White > Minorities
Partner institutions implemented new interventions with the goal of improving completion.

Many interventions were focused on improving completion of URM students:

- Recruitment and admission
- Mentoring
- Student support groups
- Seminar series that address inclusion/diversity
The AGEP program supports alliances of institutions to accomplish two primary goals

- Significantly increase the number of URMs obtaining graduate degrees in STEM
- Enhance the preparation of URMs for faculty positions in academia

AGEP alliances employ creative strategies to enhance recruitment, retention and advancement of URM students in STEM
New Project – Research Topics

- What are the completion and attrition rates for URM students in STEM doctoral programs?
- How do they vary by field of study, gender, or race/ethnicity?
- How have completion and attrition rates changed over time?
Research Topics (cont’d)

- Are there differences in completion and attrition between AGEP and non-AGEP institutions, in Ph.D. Completion project institutions, and others, etc.?

- What activities or initiatives have been implemented by AGEP and Ph.D. Completion Project institutions?
  - Implementation challenges
  - Impact on student success
Sample Selection

- Twenty institutions to be selected competitively to:
  - Provide completion and attrition data
  - Administer surveys to students
  - Host site visits
    - Interview faculty and administrators
    - Focus groups of students
- Awardees to receive $30,000 each
Selection Criteria

- Offer a minimum of 15 Ph.D. programs in STEM disciplines
- Capacity to collect completion and attrition data for 1992-93 through 2011-12
- Ability to describe policies, procedures and interventions in place at the institution that might affect completion and attrition
Selection Criteria (cont’d.)

- Willingness to host site visits for focus groups and interviews
- Ability to administer web-based surveys to students
- Approval from IRB
- Demonstrated institutional commitment
- Other considerations:
  - Numbers of URM students in STEM Ph.D. programs
Request for Proposals

- All RFP materials online at [www.cgsnet.org](http://www.cgsnet.org)
- All regular U.S. CGS member institutions that offer a minimum of 15 STEM doctoral are eligible
- Graduate dean (or equivalent) must be P.I.
- Proposals will be reviewed by an external selection committee
Proposal Requirements

- Complete 2 templates (see www.cgsnet.org):
  - Institutional characteristics (Template A-1)
    - General information about institution
    - Summary graduate enrollment data
    - Institutional policies, practices and interventions that might affect completion and attrition
  - Program characteristics (Template A-2)
    - General information about program
    - Graduate enrollment data
    - Other program policies, requirements, etc.
Awardee Responsibilities

- Full list in RFP (see www.cgsnet.org)
  - Collect and report de-identified, student-level completion and attrition data (Template B-1)
  - Complete program policies, practices and interventions template (Template B-2)
  - Field web-based student survey (Template B-3)
  - Host site visits (Templates B-4 and B-5)
  - Submit narrative and financial reports
  - Highlight participation in the project
IRB Process

- Institutions need approval from their IRB
- All data collection templates and interview questions online at www.cgsnet.org
- Confidentiality, informed consent, data safeguarding plan, etc.
- CGS will work with awardees as needed on IRB process
Project Timeline

- **Proposal deadline:** February 15, 2012, 5:00 pm EST
- **Awardees announced:** March 15, 2012
- **Awardee project start date:** April 1, 2012
- **Deadline for submission of completion and attrition data:** August 31, 2012
- **Deadline for submission of program policies, practices and interventions information:** October 31, 2012
Project Timeline (cont’d.)

- Institutions to field online survey: August-December 2012
- Site visits: January-June 2013
  - Interviews with deans, other personnel
  - Focus groups with students
- Awardee project end date: July 31, 2013
- Final narrative and financial reports due to CGS: September 30, 2013
Proposal Preparation

- List of key personnel
- Proposal narrative
  - Description of institution
  - Institutional commitment
  - Ability to provide data
- Templates
  - Institutional characteristics (Template A-1)
  - Program characteristics (Template A-2)
Proposal Preparation (cont’d.)

- **Budget**
- **Budget narrative**
- **Supplementary materials**
  - Letter of support
  - Letter from IRB
- **Page limit – 10 pages, double-spaced**
  - Not counting the budget, budget narrative, data templates and supplementary materials
Proposal Deadline

- Wednesday, February 15, 2012, 5:00 p.m. EST
- Send to Leontyne Goodwin at lgoodwin@cgs.nche.edu
Questions/Comments

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