

# STEM ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

May 29, 2009 12:30-2:00 AD 206

Present: Leigh Buchwald, Jeffrey Burke, Diana Gill, Dana Hester, Kim Holland, Becky Iott, Albert Loaiza, Irene Malmgren, Jim McClain, Ivon McCraven, Esmeralda Medrano, Eric Rabitoy, Justina Rivadeneyra, Sylvia Smythe, Eleanor Tsark

## Things Done:

- STEM Director Updates: - Sylvia Smythe
  - There have been many new ideas coming from faculty, some of them including:
    - From Lucia Riderer and Rick Nguyenhuu - Calculus Enrichment Workshops
    - From Lucia Riderer - Focus on Calculus, a peer mentoring program
    - From Jo Morrison – Math Jam Cram
  - We've hired Scott Mondrala to head up the San Gabriel Valley Conservancy Wildlands Research Project for our students.
  - We've turned in our Mid-Year Report – this report was very important as our year 2 funding is based upon grant activities during the first 6 months.
  - Jeremy Clark has been hired to create a STEM web page.
- Science Project Coordinator Updates: - Eleanor Tsark
  - We are getting the STEM Center up and running for fall 2009.
  - We are piloting SI Instruction for Chemistry 110, 111 & 112 for fall 2009.
  - We've had 3 guest speakers on campus for our STEM Speaker Series this spring.
  - We've done a field trip to City of Hope.
  - We've done K-12 outreach to the schools in our community.
  - We have 100 elementary and middle school children coming to Citrus June 15 – 25, to participate in hands-on science experiments in our Summer Science Enrichment Academy.
  - 7<sup>th</sup> graders are coming on campus in the fall to participate in cat dissections with Arnold Kondo.
- Science Faculty Lead Updates: - Dana Hester
  - On May 1<sup>st</sup>, Eric Rabitoy, Dana Hester, June Han, Jim Lancaster, Dave Brown, & Dennis Korn attended a faculty to faculty conference at UCR. We hope to be able to take some bigger steps with them in the future.
  - On May 4<sup>th</sup> & May 11<sup>th</sup>, the Citrus biology major students traveled to the University of La Verne to complete a 2 week lab exercise on their campus, conducted by members of the ULV science squad students (upper-division students).
    - Those same ULV science squad students have also been on the Citrus campus this spring.
    - The ULV faculty gave a tour of all their science facilities to our students.
  - We're in the progress of finalizing an 8 week research opportunity with faculty at Cal State Fullerton for math, physics, geology, & biology students.
  - We are finalizing the AS degree in Wildland Resources & Management.
  - We are working on the Chemistry AS degree.

- Math Faculty Lead Updates: – Esmeralda Medrano
  - We have close to 400 students at 3 different sites for the PAGE Program this summer:
    - We have 6 classes here at Citrus (1 pre-algebra, 2 algebra, 2 geometry, 1 algebra II).
    - We have 4 classes at Monrovia
    - We have 3 classes at Duarte (students will get high school credit for these classes)
      - It has been requested to have the PAGE Program throughout the year, and to include biology & chemistry
  - Esme wants to create a homework lab for the high schools, to hire their own teachers, to teach lower end math to the students that need it.
  - The Math Instructors have commented on how well the Math Success Center is doing. We have some Instructors doing office hours in the Success Center.
  - We are offering a Math Jam Cram on Saturday before finals week in the Math Success Center.
  - We have off campus tutoring at the Glendora continuation school, Goddard Middle School, Sandburg Middle School, & Duarte.
  - We are creating a homework lab at Duarte.
- Technology Updates: - Leigh Buchwald
  - There are several projects, including Video Conferencing with a portable system & desk top computers that participate. It can be used for remote math tutoring from students' computers at home – where they can interact with tutors in the math lab.
  - There is the Desk Top Virtualization Project.
    - We are changing out one of our computer labs in the math lab. We are moving it from 24 computers to 50. We are saving money & power by doing a lot of green technology in that room. We will be able to take the programs & software that generally have been limited to one physical location on campus, & be able to make that available in different rooms on campus, as well as at home.
  - We are changing out a lot of the technology in rooms, with new projectors & updating technology.
  - We are installing a Pod-Casting type system in CI 158.
- Assessment Attachment:
  - Every activity we do, we have an evaluation component. We have an internal evaluation team who will be analyzing & compiling our assessment data on the STEM grant projects.
- Articulation/Degrees: - Justina Rivadeneyra
  - We are working in the transfer center to get names & e-mails of all the students in our data base who have declared a major as of fall 2008, in order for the STEM counselors to contact students from the list.
  - We collect interest cards from students, & we have invited the STEM counselors to come share a little bit about STEM with the students.
  - The engineering workshop was a huge success.

### **Things Left Undone:**

- Publicity/Giveaways:
  - We have been doing a “What’s up with STEM” every week in the weekly bulletin.
  - Irene includes a lot of the STEM updates every week, to the Board in their Friday updates.
- Citrus Network:
  - One of the activities in the grant was to talk to employers to be part of our guest speaker series, & to have a connection with employers.
    - We don’t have anyone to do this yet. It is something we will tackle next year.
- Blackboard Updates:
  - We don’t have anyone yet to update our Blackboard site.
- STEM Week:
  - Plans are to have a STEM Week next summer.

### **What’s Next – Fall 2009/Spring 2010**

- Dana shared an idea of drafting a letter of reference, that faculty would write to the top non-major students in the STEM disciplines, that would encourage students of their ability/capacity to be very successful, and include a suggestion to make an appointment with our STEM counselors.
- She also shared an idea for a letter of reference for the A students, to become a tutor.
- Irene shared an idea for a STEM transfer workshop, that helps students get their applications in.
- For the October 6 Board meeting, there can be a STEM Complex tour – and maybe an open house all day or part of the day for the campus. Irene suggested having pictures of the students on the walls, such as what is on the website.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00. Meetings will resume in the fall.