Student Success Model: Learning through Engaged and Authentic Practices (LEAP)

Poster Presentation for 2020 AAC&U’s Diversity, Equity, and Student Success Virtual Conference
Purpose

The activities of the LEAP Program focus to improve the persistence and graduation of marginalized students pursuing a pre-health degree in biology or chemistry at the University of Northern Colorado.
FUNDED BY

Faculty demystify courses and success

Summer Bridge

CURES

Social connections with each other & Peer Mentors

Cohort Biology & Chemistry Classes

Continuous support by Academic & Intrusive Advisors, and Peer Mentors
Outcomes

Persistence

• Since 2015, the LEAP program has supported 79 students, 73% of whom have either graduated or are still enrolled at UNC.

• Students in the 2017-2018 LEAP cohort persisted at rates over 20% higher for fall to spring (F-S) and over 35% higher for fall to fall (F-F) compared to all Biology and Chemistry students in the same incoming freshman class.

• We see similar persistence and retention for the 2018-2019 cohort (100% and 77% respectively for F-F and F-S retention) however comparison data are not yet available).
Outcomes

Graduation

Four-year graduation rates for the 2015-2016 LEAP Cohort
- 15% higher than for all incoming freshman class studying Biology and Chemistry at UNC
- More than double the four-year graduation rate for students of color and first-generation students.

![Bar chart showing Biology and Chemistry Five-Year Graduation Rates at UNC](chart.png)

- 48.6% for the LEAP cohort
- 35.1% for Biology and Chemistry
- 66.7% for the overall 5-year University rate
LESSON LEARNED
For First-Generation Student Success

• Intrusive Advisor provides bi-monthly check-ins (half-time for 25 students)

• Academic Advisor provides monthly check-ins for academic success

• Community Building (Social and academic activities supported by peer mentors)

• Cohort science classes and laboratories

• Early meetings with science faculty to build a sense of access and support.
  • Advisors communicate monthly with faculty on student success

• Engage in authentic research such as CURES
QUESTIONS???

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