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Final Report

Program Title: Mentoring for Minorities in Mathematics and Statistics

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Introduction

The University of West Florida received a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy to initiate a program on mentoring for Minorities in Mathematics and Science. The purpose of the program was to develop interest of minority freshman and sophomore students in teaching mathematics and science and then have these students act as role models for grade school students, especially for minorities who are experiencing difficulties in science and mathematics education.

Goals of the Project

- 1 - Provide an enrichment program to give students a head start in their studies, boost their confidence, and cement their interest in becoming teachers of mathematics and science.
- 2 - Expand the knowledge of real-world applications of mathematics and science by presenting real applications, and encouraging other activities such as cooperative learning, problem solving, and the use of instructional technology.
- 3 - Hire freshman and sophomore students as teacher's aides in middle and high school summer programs with \$1,000 participant stipends.

Planned Activities

In order to achieve the project's goals and purposes, the planned activities included:

- a - Academic instruction mathematics and science.
- b - Academic advising and counseling.
- c - Multi-cultural enrichment.
- d - Career planning and career day activities.
- e - Motivational seminar.
- f - Student development.
- g - Developing problem solving skills.
- h - Hands-on with new technology.

Components c, d, e, and f were not part of the initial program. However, it was felt that it would assist in achieving the goals of the project. These components were carried out with the assistance of the Advising Center and the Reachout Program at the University of West Florida. Compensation for these activities came from other University sources.

Participants

Fifteen (15) students, one more than what was budgeted, participated in the project. They represented the following minorities:

	Male	Female	Total
African-American	4	8	12
Asian	1	1	2
Caucasian (under represented)	0	1	1

Conclusion

A consortium of faculty members from the University of West Florida directed a program for fifteen minority students in order to increase involvement and achievement of under represented students in pursuing careers in the fields of mathematics and science. The program was specifically designed to develop teaching capabilities and skills, as well as appreciation for the role of mathematics and science in solving societal problems.