



Summary Report

**Promotion of Underrepresented Minorities in Academic STEM
(PUMA-STEM)'s**

2017 Student Mentoring Workshop

Location:

**Concordia University Chicago
Christopher Center, Room 200
River Forest, Illinois**

Date:

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Sponsored by:

**The National Science Foundation and the
Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation
(Award No. 1612767)**

**(Pre-Alliance Planning for the Coalition for Promotion of
Underrepresented Minorities in Academic STEM (PUMA-STEM))**

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Disclaimer

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The Pre-Alliance Planning for the Coalition for Promotion of Underrepresented Minorities in Academic STEM (PUMA-STEM) conducted a two-and-a-half hour workshop focused on the mentoring of underrepresented minority (URM) STEM students. At the workshop, held on Wednesday, November 8, 2017, in Concordia University Chicago, River Forest, IL, students as well as their faculty, mentors and advisors were provided opportunities to share mentoring experiences and best practices, learn about effective mentoring, and strategies to develop a peer support network. The goals of the workshop were to

- (1) increase the participants' understanding of the roles that faculty and peer mentoring can play in enhancing the academic and professional outcomes of STEM majors who are members of URM groups;
- (2) provide the participants with information, resources, and strategies, and equip them with the skills and knowledge about best practices to assist them in mentoring so as to support the professional development of URM STEM students;
- (3) provide the participants with information relating to the lessons learnt and obstacles faced in starting a new mentoring program; and
- (4) increase the participants' awareness of mentoring programs in the area.

Twenty-one faculty, administration, staff, mentors and mentees from various Chicago area colleges or universities, and high schools attended the workshop.



Some of the participants at the workshop.

The workshop featured three speakers who discussed the following topics.

- Characteristics of Mentoring
- Multiple Strategies for Structuring Mentoring Programs
- Mentoring Models for Success
- Triton Mentoring Model
- Mentoring Students in the Oak Park and River Forest areas

The first speaker was Mr John Williams. He is currently Oak Park Township's youth services director since 1994. He has been leading the charge with a group of community activists on a plan to fight rising gang activity in the area. The group was on the front lines of the fight to keep Oak Park and River Forest's kids from getting into trouble - and to pull kids already in trouble back on track. He is also one of the biggest supporters of the Concordia University Chicago's STEM-4NE1 Mentoring and Robotics Programs.

His talk highlighted the importance of mentoring and his initial struggles in setting up the youth services such as mentoring in the Oak Park and River Forest areas. His talk inspired the participants to focus on helping young people and to engage them in positive activities and help them make better life choices.



Mr John Williams speaking about the history of student services such as mentoring in the Oak Park and River Forest areas.

Mr Williams identified the important attributes for mentoring, which consisted of confidentiality of a one-to-one relationship between a mentor and the mentee, providing the mentee support in a friendly, non-threatening and understanding manner to achieve a desired outcome. He also stressed to the participants, through his life example, the process of leading, guiding, keeping interest alive, supporting, counseling, teaching, coaching, demonstrating, and challenging, within a relationship of mutual trust and respect between the mentor and mentee.

Our next two speakers were Messrs. Robert Marshall and Noel Reynoso from Triton College, which is a public two-year community college, located in River Grove, Illinois, a suburb 12 miles northwest of the Chicago Loop. Mr Marshall is the coordinator for the Triton Undergraduate Men Pursuing Higher education (TRIUMPH) program, Triton College); and Mr. Reynoso is the Student Success Strategist for the Triton Employees As Mentors (TEAM) Program, Triton College).

The duo discussed about structuring mentoring programs based on multiple strategies for diverse population, mentioned about the collaborative workshops for all mentees and elaborated on the Triton Mentoring Model which consisted of mentoring options such as Student Support Services (TRiO), Triton Employees As Mentors (TEAM), Peer Mentoring Collaborative (PMC), Triton Undergraduate Men Pursuing Higher education (TRIUMPH), Veteran Resource Group, Scholars Program, AmeriCorps and Center for Access & Accommodative Services (CAAS).



Messrs. Robert Marshall and Noel Reynoso, from Triton College, addressing the participants about their programs.

The workshop ended with the evaluations for the workshop. The overwhelming majority of the participants indicated the workshop achieved its overall purpose and goals that were stated in this document. Several made verbal comments regarding how the workshop had given them a clearer understanding that they too can make a real difference in students' lives by helping them to successfully complete their undergraduate work. They were particularly appreciative of the information on the mentoring programs that were presented and were greatly impressed by Mr Williams' contributions to youth services available in the Oak Park and River Forest areas.

==== The End =====

