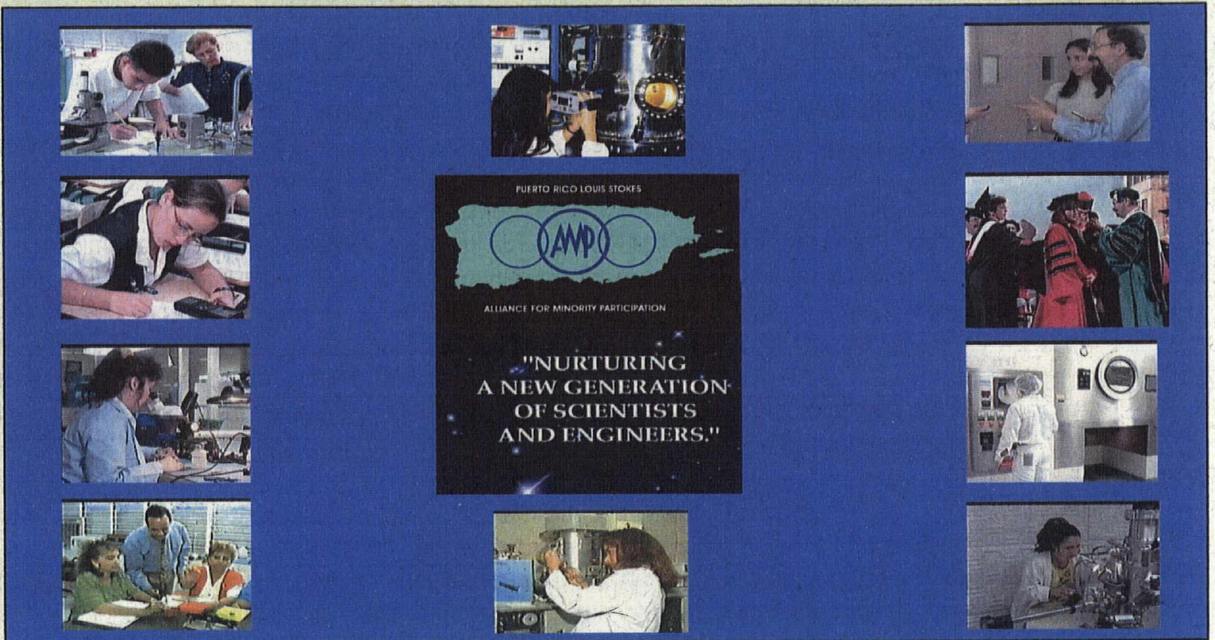


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Puerto Rico Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (PR-LSAMP)

The Puerto Rico Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (PR-LSAMP) is an alliance of the Resource Center for Science and Engineering of the University of Puerto Rico, the University of Puerto Rico System, the Inter American University System, Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico, and Polytechnic University of Puerto Rico. The goal of PR-LSAMP is to increase the quantity and quality of minority and low-income college students who successfully complete a baccalaureate degree in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), and/or complete a graduate degree in a STEM-related field.



PR-LSAMP Phase IV activities:

- 1) Enhancing Students Knowledge and Skills for Graduate Studies
- 2) A Mentored Undergraduate Research Experience, including an annual local scientific forum for students to present their research projects, and travel stipends to present research projects at national conferences
- 3) A Role Model Series to expose students to successful professionals in science and engineering fields
- 4) The Annual Best Practices Conference on Teaching and Learning to continue to expose STEM faculty to successful strategies to improve the teaching process.

The Resource Center for Science and Engineering (RCSE) of the University of Puerto Rico coordinates the PR-LSAMP initiative. The RCSE's mission is to achieve excellence in STEM education, in order to promote the full participation of Puerto Rican students in these fields, and to develop the human resources and research base needed to support the Island's economic and technological development.

PR-LSAMP Management

The Resource Center for Science and Engineering (RCSE) of the University of Puerto Rico, a consortium of the Island's main universities, coordinates the PR-LSAMP initiative. The RCSE's mission is to achieve excellence in science, mathematics, engineering and technology (SMET) education, in order to promote the full participation of Puerto Rican students in these fields, and to develop the human resources and research base needed to support the Island's economic and technological development. Founded in 1980 with joint funding from the National Science Foundation and the University of Puerto Rico, the RCSE has been extremely successful in pursuing its goals through competitive grants and has experienced a sound and steadfast growth in the scope of its programs during these 20 years.

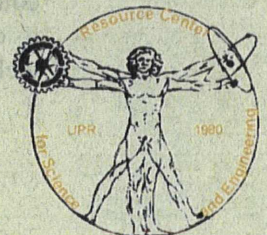
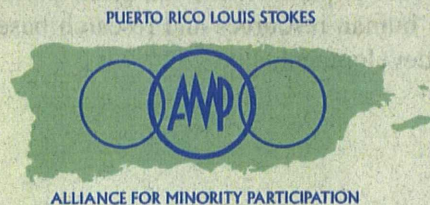
The high level of success of the RCSE is to a great extent due to its development as a consortium -- a collaborative network among the major institutions of higher education on the Island, thus providing access to a broad pool of resources and promoting the optimization of efforts. Because of the multi-institutional nature of its structure and the island-wide scope and complexity of its goals and programs, which range from grades K-12 to the establishment of a strong R&D capability on the Island, the RCSE was established as an administrative unit of the UPR's Central Administration and is directly under the supervision of the President of the University. As such, the RCSE is not identified with any particular academic programs, levels or units, and it has effectively promoted the maximum collaboration of all institutions, thus facilitating a synergistic effect leading to the improvement of SMET education throughout the Island. The RCSE has served the role of a broker among the consortium institutions, bringing them together to identify the major problems and needs in SMET education in Puerto Rico and to jointly develop innovative programs to address these needs. Key academic and administrative officials from all member institutions participate fully in the planning and implementation of the RCSE programs.

PR-LSAMP utilizes the Resource Center as a virtual structure to reform the undergraduate educational system and to serve as a catalyst and partner of change across the K-16+ continuum. The RCSE keeps constant linkages with the national reform movement in education and cognitive science, and it also links closely with the industrial and business communities. The information obtained from these links is then transferred to the participating institutions and is converted by the PR-LSAMP project into educational strategies, specific objectives, and benchmarks to implement and measure progress of the reform.

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