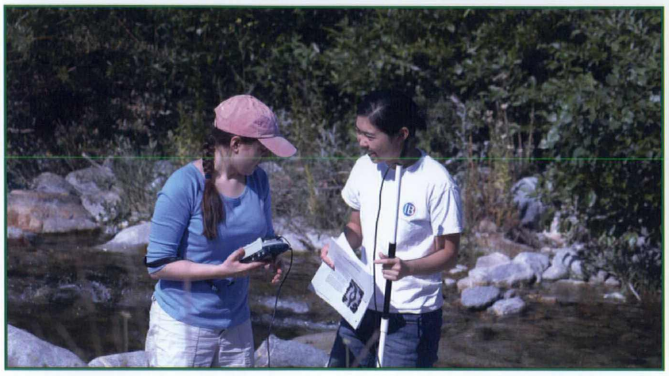
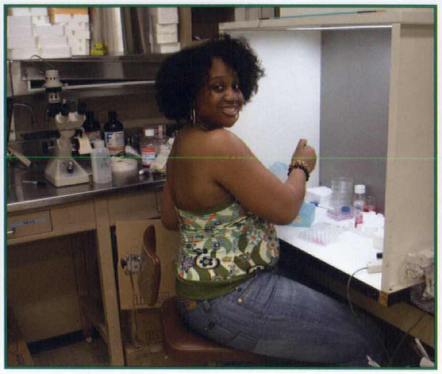
STEP PROGRAM

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS TALENT EXPANSION PROGRAM (STEP)


Examples of possible outcomes of STEP Type 1 awards include:

- Significant progress toward achieving the specific increases proposed in the number of students who are U. S. citizens or permanent residents obtaining STEM degrees at institutions with baccalaureate degree programs; or completing associate degrees or completing credits toward transfer to a baccalaureate degree program in STEM fields at community colleges;
- An evaluation, using the preliminary indicators and benchmarks defined in the proposal, that informs the institution and others about the effectiveness of specific implementation strategies; and
- Effective dissemination of project processes and results to the broader community.

Examples of possible outcomes of STEP Type 2 awards include:

- Evidence concerning an important factor(s) and its role(s) in associate and/or baccalaureate degree attainment, and/or undergraduate access to STEM careers, and/or persistence to STEM graduate study;
- Practical information useful to educators about the impact of the factor(s) that has been studied within the educational system; and
- Dissemination of the research results to the education community.

Integrating diversity into NSF Programs, Projects, and Activities

Broadening opportunities and enabling the participation of all citizens – women and men, underrepresented minorities, and persons with disabilities – is essential to the health and vitality of science and engineering. NSF is committed to this principle of diversity and deems it central to the programs, projects, and activities it considers and supports.

For more information and to see current projects:
http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5488

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National Science Foundation

Highlighting the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Talent Expansion Program sponsored by the National Science Foundation.
NSF 09-63

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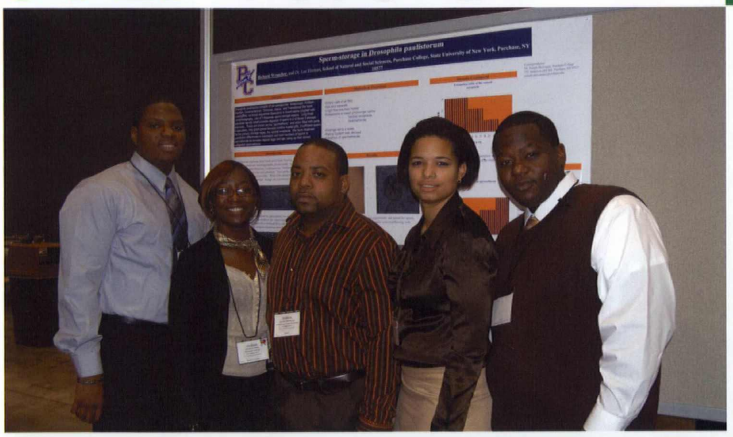

STEP seeks to increase the number of students receiving associate or baccalaureate degrees in established or emerging fields within science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS TALENT EXPANSION PROGRAM (STEP)

Whether preparing students to participate as citizens in a technological society, to enter the workforce, to continue their formal education in graduate school, or to further their education in response to new career goals, undergraduate education provides the critical link between the Nation's secondary schools and a society increasingly dependent upon science and technology. Increasing the number of undergraduate students (U. S. citizens or permanent residents) obtaining degrees in STEM fields will provide a workforce that is prepared to ensure a healthy economy, respond to demands for national security, and maintain and elevate the quality of life and standard of living in the United States through technological and scientific advancements.

STEP makes awards supporting two different types of program activities:

- **Type 1**: Program activities under the STEP Type 1 competition should be efforts aimed at adapting and implementing best practices that will lead to an increase in the number of students (U. S. citizens or permanent residents) obtaining STEM degrees at institutions with baccalaureate degree programs, completing associate degrees in STEM fields, or completing credits toward transfer to a baccalaureate degree program in STEM fields at community colleges. Please see the full solicitation for additional details.

- **Type 2**: Program activities under the STEP Type 2 competition represent educational research on factors affecting degree attainment in STEM. The results are expected to contribute to the knowledge base of scholarly research in education. The proposal should identify the research questions, and the results should provide convincing evidence of the relationship of the factor(s) (including departmental/institutional) studied to the issues of associate and/or baccalaureate degree attainment, and/or undergraduate access to STEM careers, and/or persistence to STEM graduate study. These educational research studies should reflect explicit cognizance of the broad variety of institutions of higher education, and should address the unique challenges and opportunities posed by that variety. Studies that involve a single institution are discouraged unless the proposal provides compelling arguments that the results can be generalized to the larger community. The proposed research should be developed with the intent to provide the education community, including faculty, administrators, policymakers, and parents, with practical information to consider with respect to the impact of the factor(s) being studied within the educational system.

STEP Type 1 Projects

Awards vary from a maximum of $500,000 over 5 years to a maximum of $2.5 million over 5 years according to the undergraduate student enrollment at the institution and the partnerships that may be in place among institutions.

Approximately 15-20 Type 1 awards are funded each year.

STEP Type 2 Projects

Awards up to $1.5 million for up to 4 years.

Approximately 1-3 Type 2 awards are funded each year.

National Science Foundation

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