

Our Education Title III grant project titled ***SURGE (STEM Undergraduate Retention Graduation and Empowerment)*** is a student-centered, faculty-driven, holistic STEM student success initiative guided by the evidence-based, institutional experience, programmatic weaknesses and performance gaps within the institution, and strategic goals.



The overall goal is to provide appropriate support structures to increase enrollment, retention, academic performance and graduation rates of Hispanic and low-income students in STEM. We are attempting to do this through 5 overarching grant strategies: providing holistic support, a seamless pipeline for recruitment and retention in STEM, improving curriculum, engagement through research, and state of the art technology supporting student success. The SURGE grant has been transformative on our campus. The outcomes are beyond what anyone would have expected.

Through grant funds we created the STEM Engagement Center the hub of all science activities on campus. This center and all its services will long outlast any grant funding. The grant initiatives have identified the need for and shown the success of STEM specific student support services, especially for our most vulnerable populations. These services did not exist on our campus prior to the grant but will definitely continue past grant funding. As a result of the grant a cultural change has happened on campus that will long impact our institution. This change is recognition of the discipline specific needs of our students,

particularly our low-income STEM students. In addition, the technology upgrades, especially to our classrooms will have long lasting effects on our institutions ability to serve our unique, majority low-income minority population.



Lastly, the grant has enabled us to train all our STEM faculty in evidence-based pedagogies. This has led to amazing changes and updates in both course and departmental level curriculum that will have long lasting effects. The hope is that the long-term impact of the grant projects will lead to the continued success of all our STEM majors but particularly to the low-income Hispanic STEM majors. Maryellen Hamilton, a Professor in the Psychology Department, is the Director of the grant.