

USG STEM Initiative: 2007-2016

Overview: The University System of Georgia's (USG) STEM Initiative is a project designed to improve student access and success in the STEM fields and enhance existing instructional capabilities of STEM faculty in Georgia's postsecondary institutions. The Initiative, launched in 2007, is led by USG's Department of Academic Affairs and Policy's Educational Access and Success Division. Institutions were provided the opportunity to apply for grants, through a competitive process, to meet the goals of the USG STEM Initiative. USG provided grants to colleges and universities selected through a competitive process.

Goals: Institutions were supported for their work to meet the Initiative's three goals:

1. Increase the number of P-12 students who prepare for and are interested in majoring in STEM in college.
2. Increase the success rates (retention, progression, and graduation) and number of students in college who pursue the STEM disciplines.
3. Increase the number of teachers who are prepared in science and mathematics.

Awardees:

STEM Initiative Grants Awarded 2007-2011:

- Armstrong State University
- Atlanta Metropolitan State College
- Columbus State University
- Darton College
- Georgia College
- Georgia Perimeter College
- Georgia Southwestern State University
- Georgia State University
- South Georgia College
- Southern Polytechnic State University
- The University of Georgia

STEM Initiative Grants Awarded 2011-2016:

- Columbus State University
- Georgia College
- Georgia Gwinnett College
- Georgia Perimeter College
- Georgia State University
- University of Georgia
- University of West Georgia
- Georgia Southern University
 - Annual Scholarship of STEM Teaching and Learning Conference

Innovative Activities: Institutions explored a number of innovative approaches to realize the goals of the project. Notable initiatives included:

- Faculty Mini-Grant Programs
- K-12 Service Learning Programs
- Undergraduate Research Programs
- The Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement Program (MESA)
- Supplemental Instruction (SI) Programs
- Peer Mentoring
- Learning Communities
- Undergraduate Research Experiences
- Enhancements to STEM teacher preparation
- Professional Development for K-12 Teachers

Indicators of Success:

- Increase in STEM degrees between participating institutions from FY 2007 – FY 2015
- Increase in STEM majors between participating institutions from FY 2007 – FY 2015
- Decrease in W and WF rates in introductory STEM courses
- Increase in ABC rates in introductory STEM courses