CEOSE Mini-Symposium on Institutions Serving Persons with Disabilities in STEM

Virginia Stern
Director, Project on Science, Technology and Disability and ENTRY POINT!

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• AAAS Project on Science, Technology and Disabilities began in 1975.

• The project serves scientists and engineers with disabilities: students at all levels; faculty; parents; counselors; and the media.

• ENTRY POINT! includes high achieving undergraduate and graduate students. All are in STEM.

Resource Directory – Highest Degree Conferred

- Doctoral/Prof. 170 (35.3 %)
- Masters 139 (28.8 %)
- Bachelors 147 (30.5 %)
- Associate/Other 26 (5.4 %)
Resource Directory – Disability Groups

- Allergy
- Amputee
- Arthritis
- Asperger's Syndrome
- Asthma
- Blind/Low Vision
- Cerebral Palsy
- Chronic Fatigue Syndrome
- Deaf/Hard-of-Hearing
- Dwarfism/Short Stature
- Diabetes
- Epilepsy
- LD/ADD/ADHD
- Mobility Impaired
- Multiple Sclerosis
- Muscular Dystrophy
- Neurological
- Other Health
- Paraplegia
- Psychological
- Polio/Post-Polio
- Quadriplegia
- Speech Impaired
- Spina Bifida
- Stroke
ENTRY POINT!

- Currently in its 11th year.
- AAAS recruits nationally. All science disciplines. All disabilities.
- 600 students applied; vetted pool of 120 students.
- In 2007, 47 students had paid STEM internships in public and private sectors.
- Internships are absolutely critical for entering the STEM workforce.

*We have more talent than internship opportunities.*
Entry Point! 2007 – Alumni and Partners

• Entry Point! alumni association now has 440 individuals (1996-2007)

• Partners include:
  • NASA / ACCESS (1996)
  • IBM (1997)
  • NOAA (2004)
  • Merck (2005)
  • Google (2006)
  • Lockheed Martin (2007)
  • CVS (2008)
  • NAVAIR (2008)
ENTRY POINT! - Impact

- Persisting in STEM is a balance between expectations and reality.
- For Entry Point! students, expectations trump reality.
- Over 90% of alumni are employed in STEM, in graduate school or continuing undergrad.

There is no correlation between disability and STEM discipline.
ENTRY POINT! - Needs

- There is currently no funding from NSF or any other federal agency targeted at individual students with disabilities in STEM disciplines.
- There is not enough attention to STEM students with non-apparent disabilities, especially minority students.
- Some have persisted and had success.
Ricardo Polius
Alabama A&M
Biotechnology
PhD Candidate
NASA Marshall
Grace Bolanos
Milwaukee
School of Engr.
Software Engineering
NASA HQ
Betsy Pugel
U. of Maryland
PhD
Goddard
Matthew Meleski
Ohio State U.
Chemistry/Biology
CPIMA/IBM/Stanford
Brittany Tofinchio
RPI
Biology/Management
NOAA/NERO, Gloucester
Chad Cheetham
UC Riverside
Neuroscience
Merck & Co.
Jessica Granderson
UC Berkeley
Mechanical Engineering
NASA/Goddard
Francis Jackson
Augsburg Univ.
Computer Science
NASA/Ames/Goddard
Whitney Blanchard
Univ. of New Hampshire
Environmental Engr.
NOAA/NFWS
Royce James
Columbia University
Plasma Physics
NSF; NASA/Goddard
- and -

Jason Grieves
Virginia Tech.
Computer Engr.
IBM, Texas
Contact Information

Virginia Stern
vstern@aaas.org

www.entrypoint.org