



HSI STEM Grant Activity Evaluations for Spring 2014

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Purpose of Brief

This brief summarizes the results of the HSI STEM Grant activity evaluations completed by participants attending activities in Spring 2014.

Summary of Findings

- Overall, 31 responses were received.
- 20 responses (65%) were received from the Exploring STEM Careers activity, and 11 responses (35%) were from the How to Read a Science Textbook activity.
- 90% of respondents were full-time enrolled students, 68% were participating in the STEM Academy, 68% were male students, and 37% of respondents were Hispanic.
- 100% of respondents stated they would recommend the activity to others and that they were either satisfied or very satisfied with the activity.
- 100% of respondents who attended the How to Read a Science Textbook activity felt the activity was an effective use of time and that they would use the skills and knowledge in class.
- 90% of the respondents who attended the Exploring STEM Careers activity stated the activity was either useful or very useful.
- 55% of respondents stated they would use the information from the Exploring STEM Careers activity at school or in class while 25% stated they would use the information at home.

Overview

Students participating in HSI STEM Trek and Academy were required to attend activities during the Spring 2014 term. For continuous quality improvement and to ensure the activities are meeting the needs of STEM students, an activity evaluation was developed by the HSI STEM Pathways Grant team in collaboration with the Office of Institutional Effectiveness, Research, and Planning (OIERP).

Methodology

A one-page paper evaluation was administered at the completion of each STEM activity to all participants. The evaluation contained four multiple-choice questions regarding student demographic information such as ethnicity, race, gender, and enrollment. Four questions measured a participant's level of satisfaction, whether the participant would recommend the activity to others, whether the activity was an effective use of time, in which aspects of their lives participants expected to use the skills and knowledge attained. A final open-ended question provided an opportunity for a participant to highlight the most useful skill or new knowledge they had attained through the activity. Participants were also given the option to include their name, student ID, email, and major.

Findings

Table 1 identifies the response rate for each activity and demographic. Overall, 31 responses were received. Twenty responses (65%) were received from the Exploring STEM Careers activity, and 11 responses (35%) were from the How to Read a Science Textbook activity. Of all respondents, 90% were full-time enrolled students, 68% were participating in the STEM Academy, 68% were male students, and 37% of respondents were Hispanic.

Table 1: Response rate by activity and demographic.

Question	Response	#	%
Activity Name	Exploring STEM Careers	20	64.5
	How to Read a Science Textbook	11	35.5
Are you a Full-Time or Part-Time Student?	Full-Time	28	90.3
	Part-Time	3	9.7
Are you a STEM Student?	STEM Academy	21	67.7
	STEM Trek	10	32.3
What is your Gender?	Female	10	32.3
	Male	21	67.7
What is your Ethnicity/Race?	Hispanic	11	36.7
	Caucasian	8	26.7
	African American	2	6.7
	Asian/Pacific Islander	7	23.3
	Other	2	6.7

Note: “#” refers to the number of responses, and “%” refers to “#” divided by the total number of responses received (31).

Table 2 illustrates the responses to the multiple choice questions and statements by activity. Regardless of which activity the respondent attended, 100% of respondents stated they would recommend the activity to others and that they were either satisfied or very satisfied with the activity. Additionally, 100% of respondents who attended the How to Read a Science Textbook activity felt the activity was an effective use of time and that they would use the skills and knowledge in class. Of the respondents who attended the Exploring STEM Careers activity, 90% stated the activity was either useful or very useful. Fifty-five percent of respondents stated they would use the information from the Exploring STEM Careers activity at school or in class while 25% stated they would use the information at home.

Table 2: Response rate to multiple choice questions and statements by activity.

Question/Statement	Response	Exploring STEM Careers		How to Read a Science Textbook	
		#	%	#	%
Would you recommend this activity to other students?	Yes	20	100.0	11	100.0
	No	0	0.0	0	0.0
Rate your overall level of satisfaction with today's activity	Very Satisfied	9	45.0	8	72.7
	Satisfied	11	55.0	3	27.3
	Somewhat Satisfied	0	0.0	0	0.0
	Not Satisfied	0	0.0	0	0.0
Rate whether this activity was an effective use of your time	Very Useful	13	65.0	10	90.9
	Useful	5	25.0	1	9.1
	Somewhat Useful	2	10.0	0	0.0
	Not Useful	0	0.0	0	0.0
Where in your life do you plan to apply the skills and information you learned today?	At school/in class	11	55.0	11	100.0
	At home	5	25.0	0	0.0
	At work/on the job	2	10.0	0	0.0
	Not sure	2	10.0	0	0.0

Lastly, respondents provided the following responses regarding the one skill or new knowledge they learned in the activity. Numbers in parentheses following a statement denote how many times an identical or similar comment was made by different respondents. Responses are listed below:

5. Which one skill or new knowledge you learned in this activity are you most likely to continue using after today?

- Asking why, how, what equals Golden Circle
- Continue pushing to accomplish my goal/career
- Continue to explore various pathways in the science field
- Focus on the "why" of my career (3)
- Great internet resources on my major
- How to take effective notes (2)
- Ionfuture.org for exploring related careers (7)
- Mynextmove.org
- New knowledge of career exploration tools
- Researching
- SQ3R (9)
- Take notes while reading text books
- Using information
- Utilizing resources to stay on my career path