

**SCIENTIFIC LEADERSHIP SCHOLARS  
HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY**

NSF GRANT # 0631181

**PROGRAM EVALUATION – YEAR IV**

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This report highlights developments in year four of an NSF S-STEM funded project at Humboldt State University. For some of our awardees who have been with us from the first year of scholarship disbursements, the end of this reporting period marked the completion of their third year in STEM higher education. In addition to reporting on our first group of graduates, we discuss changes to the seminar and SLS persistence.

**First SLS Students to Graduate**

In May 2010 the first four SLS students graduated. All four were men: three white students and one Latino student. Two of the men were first in their families to receive a college degree. Two students graduated in Mathematics and two in Environmental Resources Engineering (ERE). The two ERE students graduated with honors. One of those ERE students in Fall 2010 entered a master's program at Stanford University. Further career information on our graduates will be provided in the final grant report.

**Changes to SLS Seminar**

The SLS seminar changed in Fall 2009 as PI Beth Eschenbach framed the experience as one for those students who really wanted to participate with other SLS students. While the seminar had always been an elective, the PI had strongly encouraged all scholarship recipients to enroll. The new framework generated a subgroup of enthusiastic SLS students with their own ideas for outcomes of the seminar. The students chose ongoing career development work. Students developed their resumes working with career counseling staff members who, along with the PI, encouraged them to apply for internships. Many of the students stated that they would not have completed their resumes without this added seminar. In the Spring 2010 semester, a smaller group of students worked on leadership projects to support SLS students.

**Persistence Year 4**

Between Fall 2007 and Fall 2010, 57 students received funding through the HSU S-STEM grant. As noted above, four (4) of those students graduated. Of the remaining 53 students who had at one time or another been funded by SLS, 26 persisted in their pursuit of an SLS STEM major with 20 remaining eligible for and receiving scholarship funds in Fall 2010.\*

**Table 1: Demographics of SLS Students Retained in STEM Pipeline at the Beginning of Program Year 4**

		%	N
<b>Major</b>	Computing Science	15%	4
	Environmental Resources Engineering	69%	18
	Mathematics	12%	3
	Computer Science & Math	4%	1
<b>Gender</b>	Female	42%	11
	Male	58%	15
<b>Ethnicity</b>	White or Chinese	54%	14
	Underrepresented Minorities	46%	12
	American Indian	8%	2
	African American	4%	1
	Latino	23%	6
	Filipino	8%	2
	Thai	4%	1
<b>First Generation</b>		65%	17
<b>Underrepresented In STEM **</b>		73%	19

\*As noted in earlier NSF reports, we operationalized persistence in terms of STEM pipeline persistence. So even if a student lost scholarship eligibility due to grades, FAFSA ineligibility, health or in transferring to another university, if he or she continued coursework consistent with their STEM goals, we tracked that student and counted him or her in our persistence analyses.

\*\* Women and students of ethnic minority status noted above