



**Partner Meeting Synopsis**  
**Saint Augustine's College**  
**Prezell R. Robinson Library Conference Room**  
**April 1, 2008**

**Attendees:** William Harvey, Carolyn Vallas, Kristin Pickering, Rosalyn Hobson, Ruba Alkhasawneh, Bernard White, Alok Berry, Gloria Payne, Kenneth Jones, Ali Khan, Sunil Gupta, Mattie Marshall, Ruth Grene, Cathy Fernandez-Weston, Eric Williams, Randy Grayson

**Acknowledgements**

The meeting began with acknowledgements of the hard work of Dr. Payne and her team and the great success of the first annual symposium!

**Synopsis**

Each of the eight partner institutions reported on programmatic activities, concerns, and upcoming opportunities. Themes and common concerns emerged including:

- Partner schools are developing their webpages which will then be linked to the VA-NC LSAMP website.
- Bridge programs take different forms at different partner schools, from one to five week summer bridge to fall bridge.
- Several principal investigators emphasized the importance of having students sign in at events in order to track participation by LSAMP students and contact time between LSAMP personnel and students.
- In order to double the numbers of underrepresented minorities graduating in the STEM fields it is useful to keep that goal in mind in order to provide the necessary supportive educational environment, challenging academic program, and socialization.
- How can the larger institutions replicate the peer and faculty support at the smaller schools?
- Several of the principal investigators discussed widening their target population beyond students who were in their first year of undergraduate education during year one of the grant. The importance of tapping community college transfer students and undeclared majors was noted.
- Often the students who need the most assistance are the ones who do not attend LSAMP events.
- What is the best forum for communication between VA-NC LSAMP personnel? Ideally VA-NC LSAMP student to student communication would be student led. The goal is to have method(s) of communication available by fall '08.
- It became clear that a virtual calendar is necessary to track various partner opportunities' deadlines and event dates.

- What is the most effective way to track the alliance's progress? Partners are exploring a quarterly progress format.

#### *Graduate School Preparation Retreat*

Eric Williams from Tech offered to organize and host a graduate school preparation retreat in the fall. It would be held on a weekend, Friday through Sunday. Students would bring three applications to grad school with them. They would work on the applications, discuss application process and financial resources, as well as work on personal statements and letters. Williams suggested bringing in a guest speaker such as Don Asher. Students would be encouraged to research faculty members from each school they are applying to. The retreat could accommodate 5-7 students from each institution, juniors and seniors. Funds from students' institution would pay for their attendance, housing, meals, and transportation.

#### *Diversity Career Day*

U.Va. Career Services organizes Diversity Career Day each fall. The next one will be held on October 28, 2008 at John Paul Jones Arena. Harvey's office will offer LSAMP students an orientation to the event the evening before. The partners will hold a meeting either the day before or after the career day. A concern was raised about the challenge for students to attend supplementary activities when they may struggle to keep up grades. In response it was suggested that faculty could be informed ahead of time that the students will be out of class for a supplementary activity. Students can take initiative to obtain their assignments.

#### *VA-NC LSAMP Brochure*

Mr. Harvey's office will develop a brochure for the alliance as a whole which can be used in addition to institution specific brochures. The brochure will be available to use at events such as the Diversity Career Day, when forming partnerships with corporations, and when seeking internships for LSAMP students. The goal is to complete this by fall '08.