



Fostering Commitment and Academic Success: The TOP Scholar Learning Community

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The TOP Scholar Learning Community

Funded by the National Science Foundation
Computer Science, Engineering, Mathematics
Scholarship (NSF-CSEMS)

Awarded \$268,000
\$67,000 each of four years

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TOP Program Objectives:

- 1. Increase the number of students, including those from underrepresented groups, as a result of targeted recruitment and scholarship aid**
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TOP Program Objectives:

- 2. Improve student persistence and GPA with orientation, mentoring, tracking, and support services**
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□ TOP Program Objectives:

- 3. Provide assistance for students to transfer to a four-year institution or to seek employment in a technical field**

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□ TOP Eligible programs:

- Computer Information Systems
- Computer Support and Operations
- Computer Systems and Networking
- Computerized Drafting and Design
- Engineering Science
- Information Technology
- Mathematics/ Science
- Multi-Media
- Web Development

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□ TOP Budget:

- Institutions, not NSF, distribute awards
- 90% of award - student tuition, fees, books, and supplies
- 10% of award - faculty and student travel, guest speaker fees, advisor training, program supplies and recruitment materials

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□ TOP Program Faculty:

- Computer Information Systems - 3
- Drafting - 1
- Mathematics - 5
- Physics - 1
- Telecommunications - 1

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□ TOP Student Services Staff:

- Financial Aid Advisor
 - Career Services Advisor
 - Transfer Advisor
 - Perkins Program Career Advisor
 - Enrollment Services Secretary
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□ TOP Faculty Mentors:

- Attend orientation and final meeting
 - Provide mentoring to TOP scholars
 - Refer scholars to college student services and workshops
 - Track scholars progress using TOP forms
 - Develop a TOP Individualized Plan (TIP) for scholars facing academic problems
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□ TOP Student Services Staff:

- Highlight TOP programs in recruitment activities
 - Review and select applicants
 - Attend orientation and wrap-up meeting
 - Provide career, transfer, personal advising to TOP scholars
 - Provide workshops, internships, and transfer opportunities
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□ TOP Student Requirements:

- Enroll full-time in targeted programs
 - Maintain 2.5 GPA
 - Sign TOP Contract
 - Meet with academic mentor a minimum of 3 times each semester
 - Attend a minimum of 2 college workshops each semester
 - Attend all mandatory TOP events
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Outcomes - Top Scholar Applicants

Spring 2005 - 50 applications reviewed; 31 awarded
 Fall 2005 - 52 applications reviewed; 33 awarded
 Spring 2006 - 48 applications reviewed; 29 awarded
 Fall 2006 - 41 applications reviewed; 29 awarded
 Spring 2007 - 46 applications reviewed; 31 awarded
 Fall 2007 - 39 applications reviewed; 22 awarded
 Spring 2008 - 34 applications reviewed; 31 awarded



Outcomes - Spring Enrollments

Overall Enrollment	Total Males	Total Females	Total Enrolled
Spring 2005	186	66	252
Spring 2006	158	56	214
Spring 2007	180	69	249

TOP Enrollment	Total Males	Total Females	Total Enrolled
Spring 2005	23	6	29
Spring 2006	20	8	28
Spring 2007	19	12	31



Outcomes - Fall Enrollments

Overall Enrollment	Total Males	Total Females	Total Enrolled
Fall 2005	159	70	229
Fall 2006	200	83	283
Fall 2007	206	72	278

TOP Enrollment	Total Males	Total Females	Total Enrolled
Fall 2005	23	8	31
Fall 2006	19	10	29
Fall 2007	10	10	20



Outcomes - Minority Enrollment

	TOP	Total
Fall 2004	N/ A	19
Fall 2005	3	22
Fall 2006	1	27
Fall 2007	2	27



Outcomes - TOP Underrepresented

Spring 2005	8 (4 adult males, 1 minority male, 3 adult females)
Fall 2005	3 (3 adult minority males)
Spring 2006	3 (1 adult male, 2 adult females)
Fall 2006	7 (6 adult males, 1 minority male)
Spring 2007	6 (5 adult males, 1 minority male)



Overall Persistence - Target Programs Fall 2005 - Fall 2006

- o Computer Information Systems = 60%
- o Computer Support and Operations = 67%
- o Computer Systems and Networking = 58%
- o Computerized Drafting and Design = 76%
- o Engineering Science = 41%
- o Mathematics/ Science = 47%



TOP Students - Persistence Fall 2005 - Fall 2006

Fall 2005 - 31 TOP students enrolled
 Fall 2006 - 17 TOP students returned

- o Mathematics/ Science - 5
- o Engineering Science - 3
- o Computerized Drafting and Design - 1
- o Computer Information Systems - 2
- o Computer Systems and Networking - 4
- o Multimedia - 3



TOP Scholar Cumulative GPA's

Spring 2005	3.33
Fall 2005	3.23
Spring 2006	3.06
Fall 2006	3.25
Spring 2007	3.18
Fall 2007	3.37



□ Faculty Initiated Efforts:

- GCC Graduates Roundtable
 - Alumni Panel Presentation
 - Buffalo State College Lecture - "Using Computational Methods to Visualize the Unseen", presented by Dr. Gabor T. Herman,
 - Math Club - Toronto Science Center Visit
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□ Faculty Initiated Efforts:

- CISCO Presentation "Network and Information Security"
 - Rochester Institute of Technology String Theory Lecture - Brian Green
 - Jim Brazell - 5th Dimension Gaming Workshop
<http://top.genesee.edu/workshops/gaming06.php>
 - BioMathematics Day
<http://hiperc2.buffalostate.edu/~biomath/>
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□ Staff Initiated Efforts:

- Resume Writing Workshop
 - Job Searching Workshop
 - Communication Skills Workshop
 - Employer Visits
 - Time Management Workshop
 - Etiquette Luncheon
 - Team Building Workshop
 - Stress Management Workshop
 - Surviving Final Exams Workshop
 - Homeland Security Presentation
 - Doing Stupid on the Internet Presentation
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□ Student Initiated Efforts:

- Installed new equipment in Computer Systems and Networking lab
 - Summer Internship(s)
 - U.S. Department of Energy - Office of Science - Community College Institute - Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
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□ Student Initiated Efforts:

- Geeks Club - student computer club
- "Up all Night" LAN Party - computer activities for college and community students
- Technical Service Day for college students and staff

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Why is this an important effort?

- Partnership between Academic and Student Affairs
- Provides collaboration opportunities for faculty/ staff
- Provides the opportunity to reduce attrition by offering retention related services (cohort, faculty mentoring, minimal academic standards, attend mandatory workshops)
- Provides direct student aid
- Enrolls students in career programs
- Exposes students to new opportunities

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Next Steps:

- NSF S-STEM (Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) replaced CSEMS
- Awards of up to \$500,000 in total or \$125,000 per year for four years
- Maximum scholarship amount is \$10,000 per student per year

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NSF S-STEM - expanded areas of focus:

- Biological sciences (except medicine and other clinical fields)
- Physical sciences, including physics, chemistry, astronomy, and materials science
- Mathematical sciences
- Computer and information sciences
- Geosciences
- Engineering
- Technology areas associated with the preceding fields (for example, biotechnology, chemical technology, engineering technology, information technology, etc.)

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NSF S-STEM

Scholarships in Science,
Technology, Engineering, and
Mathematics

http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=nsf07524

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U.S. Department of Energy - Office of Science
Community College Institute
Summer Internship Program

<http://www.scied.science.doe.gov/scied/CCI/about.html>

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TOP Information

<http://top.genesee.edu/>

NSF Information - Genesee

<http://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/showAward.do?AwardNumber=0422253>

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