

Integrating STEM Activities on Campus to Enhance STEM Programs

Adams State College

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Mathematics and Computer Science



Adams State College

- Located in a very rural, economically disadvantaged area
- Record enrollment this year of over 3000 students
 - 30% Hispanic
 - 40% Ethnic minorities
- Faculty
 - 18 STEM faculty members
 - 6 women faculty members spread across STEM disciplines
 - No non-white faculty members

Example STEM Activities

- Chemistry Magic Show
- San Luis Valley Science Fair
- Student Clubs
- Rocket Contest
- Robot Challenge
- Planetarium Programs
- Science Lecture Series
- Co-AMP Science Night



Problem: Lack of Funding for Activities

- Some faculty members have funded activities out of their own pay checks
- Other activities have been cancelled due to lack of funding
 - MAA high school mathematics contest
 - High School Science Day



Suggestions

- Support for recruiting activities that bring high school students to college campus
 - We will only be successful retaining students who are happy in a small town environment with many outdoor recreation opportunities
- Support for STEM activities that integrate science, mathematics, and technology with lifestyle issues
 - Free Pizza at Science Lecture Series
 - Camping trips to regional attractions to study biology and geology

Suggestions continued...

- Because local activities often do not require huge amounts of funding and can have big impacts
- Small Grant Program
 - Upper limit of \$10,000
 - Less paperwork than that required for big grants
 - Typical six month wait period shortened to one month