

Reading Apprenticeship Community College STEM Network

Executive Summary

The aim of the Reading Apprenticeship Community College STEM Network (RACCSN) is to increase college retention and graduation rates of STEM students so more students from underrepresented populations are ready for globally competitive careers. We will do this by providing professional development (online and face-to-face) to teams of 1,150 STEM faculty members and administrators from 16 campuses over three years. The existing California Community College Success Network (3CSN) and its Reading Apprenticeship Project provides a strong foundation for launching this STEM-specific work. RACCSN will allow us to reach instructors of a wide range of students, with an emphasis on supporting low-income and non-traditional STEM learners.

Our goals for the project are: (1) to increase the retention and academic success of over 163,000 community college students in STEM courses; (2) to develop and disseminate STEM-specific online courses and other materials for STEM faculty using the Reading Apprenticeship instructional framework; (3) to develop a sustainable statewide network of STEM faculty groups within the existing 3CSN professional network to work on improving teaching to support increased student STEM success in 2-year colleges; (4) to support STEM teams from 16 California campuses to pursue widespread campus change initiatives; (5) to share resources and results from this California-based work to the field through a variety of dissemination channels, including through existing, already funded networks of STEM faculty.