Abstract

The number of graduate and undergraduate students, particularly underrepresented minority (URM) groups, choosing careers in ocean, earth and atmospheric sciences remains very low compared to the other scientific disciplines. The NOAA Living Marine Resources Cooperative Science Center (LMRCSC) recruits, trains, and retains students, particularly those who are underrepresented in marine and fisheries science disciplines, by delivering content, instruction, and experiences that provide students with career-ready skills. Faculty and staff in the LMRCSC leverage several approaches and programs to meet these objectives.

NOAA Living Marine Resources Cooperative Science Center

Goals of the LMRCSC

Education Goal 1: Prepare the future workforce for marine and fisheries sciences

Education Goal 2: Strengthen collaborations across universities to enhance academic programs in marine and fisheries sciences

Research Goal 3: Develop an exemplary capacity for scientific collaborations among partner institutions in the fields of marine and fisheries sciences

Administration Goal 4. Organizational excellence for effective and efficient management of the programs and activities of the Center

Administration Goal 5. Effectively communicate the activities and accomplishments of the Center

Administration Goal 6. Effectively collaborate with universities and local communities

LMRCSC Cohort Experience for Graduate Students

Structure

- 5-day workshop focused on four core competencies in NOAA Fisheries Science
- Students engaged in 5½ days and full day immersion experiences led by faculty and NOAA scientists
- Professional development workshops are given through the cohort experience

Evaluation of the Workshop

- 19 graduate students from 7 partner institutions (March 2018 workshop)
- 15 students completed a survey at the end of the workshop
- Students represented 6 of the 7 institutional partners
- 6 students are pursuing MS degrees, and 9 are PhD students

Two clusters of workshop modules emerged as statistically significant value points for student participants (based on Chi-square extractions at a p ≤ 0.05 level).

Developing relationships between and among other students, faculty, and NOAA scientists was a significant experience in student scoring.

Obtaining career pathway information, interviewing skills, and enhanced knowledge of career opportunities was a significant experience in student scoring.

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