Impacts of the NSF-Funded ACES S-STEM Project on Atmospheric Sciences Students at a Public Liberal Arts University

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ACES project goals (since 2015)
[1] Attract highly qualified students interested in majoring in the atmospheric sciences
  a) academic ability
  b) financial need
[2] Retain students majoring in the atmospheric sciences
[3] Provide a well-rounded education
[4] Prepare students for careers in or related to the atmospheric sciences

**View from Mt. Sterling:** [1]
**Cohort class sections:** [2]
**Teaching:** [3]

**Interdisciplinary events:** [2, 3]

**Stories and Much S'more:**

**'The Cloud' Living Learning Community:** [2, 3]

**Academic advisory council:** [2]

**Game night**

**K-12 classroom visits**

**Teaching:** [3]

**Project Lighten Up**

**Field trips:** [3, 4]

**The Cloud:** [2, 3]

**Field experience:** [3, 4]

**Junior Bulldogs**

**Field trips:** [3, 4]

**Mountain Raingers**

**Research:** [3]

**Operations:** [3]

**WxChallenge & web forecasts**

**Challenges**

- Low number of applicants and lack of diversity in applicant pool
  - application process or advertising?
  - most UNCA students select college via word-of-mouth
  - unfamiliar with the benefits of a liberal arts education
- Changing major from atmospheric sciences
  - Calculus “gauntlet”
  - learning or retention?

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