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S-STEM Scholars, a Second Generation: Support for At-risk Upper Division and Transfer Students in CEAS

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Andrew A. Kline and Betsy M. Aller

WMU College of Engineering and Applied Sciences

The S-STEM Scholar Program at WMU

Background on Program
Begun in 2010, the S-STEM Scholar Program increases opportunities for financially needy but academically talented students. These students:

• Are first-time, first year students
• Demonstrate financial need through FAFSA applications
• Will enter a major in the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences
• Have a math ACT of 24 or above

To have been retained in the CEAS but did not meet GPA

Phase II: At-risk and Transfer Students

Research as well as faculty experience with the ongoing MI-
LSAMP (Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation) program has shown that students often hit a financial roadblock by their junior or senior year, causing them to work more and take fewer credit hours. This can delay time to degree, or they may not finish at all.

Phase II proposes to focus on junior- and senior-level students who have shown commitment to STEM majors and show financial need. Another main goal is to focus on diversity and less traditional students, which includes transfer students. Partners in the Phase II proposal will include MI-LSAMP, the WMU Admissions Office, and the CEAS Advising Office. MI-LSAMP has partners with nine community colleges and will provide networking opportunities to identify and attract quality candidates.

Table 1 shows the demographic target or potential head count for Phase II of the S-STEM Scholars Program. Note the differences between admitted students and actual enrollments in CEAS for under-represented minorities (URM).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total undergraduates enrolled</th>
<th>Fall 2010</th>
<th>Fall 2011</th>
<th>Fall 2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2,235</td>
<td>2,297</td>
<td>2,208</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newly admitted first-year URM students</td>
<td>171</td>
<td>183</td>
<td>142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newly enrolled first-year URM students</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer and sophomore URM enrolled</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>164</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior and senior URM enrolled</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New transfer students enrolled from 5-year community college</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>143</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources:
1. WMU Office of Institutional Research, Fact Book for appropriate year.
2. CEAS STEP First-year Program, May 2013, Year 4 Programmatic Retreat materials.

Contact Information, Acknowledgements, and Disclaimer
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