Now in its Third Year, LAVC’s Title III HSI PASO STEM Grant is Hitting its Stride

LAVC PASO project has really hit its stride in year three. The program was designed to promote STEM awareness in the college and surrounding community of San Fernando Valley with the goal of increasing enrollment of more Latino and low-income students at LAVC, encouraging completion of STEM certificates and degrees, retaining students in STEM fields, and producing more community college STEM transfers to four-year institutions. Ultimately, the objective is to increase the number of Latino and low-income students attaining STEM baccalaureates.

In service of these goals, LAVC PASO continues to include the following activities:

- Proactive and Intrusive STEM Academic Advising and Peer Mentoring
- Curricular infusion of instructional technology
- Development of model articulation & transfer agreements with LAVC’s primary transfer institutions
- Summer STEM Investigations Camp

The PASO Office’s Monthly “Coffee Hour” Proves Popular with Both Students and Faculty

Each month, students, mentors, and faculty gather to collaborate, relax, socialize, and learn from one another. They come to the PASO STEM office for coffee and snacks in a spirit of camaraderie. Although scheduled for just one hour, we often see students and faculty spend a great deal more time enjoying the chance to get caught up with one another in the supportive environment of the PASO office.
Recent STEM Awareness Events

With the goal of improving awareness of STEM opportunities and careers, and increasing enrollment in STEM as a major, LAVC’s PASO program held a series of events over the past year. All were designed to showcase STEM fields as viable, exciting paths of study.

October 24, 2018 — STEM Speaker Series: Engineering (14 students attended)

This event provided students with a first-hand opportunity to listen to a panel of professional engineers, including one from NASA’s Jet Propulsion Lab, who were there to share their insights on everything from personal experience to career advice.

November 29, 2018 — STEM Speaker Series: Medical & Science Panel (123 students attended)

Attendees of this event had the opportunity to hear from and engage with a panel of medical and science professionals, including three physicians, a registered nurse, and a vector specialist.

February 21, 2019 — Women in STEM Panel (179 students attended)

This event was well attended by a significant number of students who came for the excellent Q&A session with professionals from various STEM fields. Students had a front-row seat to hear from women who have achieved success in the STEM fields.

March 14, 2019 — π Day Celebration (251 students attended)

π Day was a big hit among students and faculty at LAVC. Because π is so central to math, which is an integral part of all STEM fields, a celebration of its use and origin were definitely in order. Attendees learned about the history of π and its various uses. Events included Jeopardy, lunch, a raffle, and awards for the winners.
Providing JSTOR Support for STEM Programs

The PASO Grant continues to support expansion of STEM resources for the college library. To date, the grant has purchased 800 print and 150 STEM eBooks. To make a lasting contribution to the STEM library collection, the PASO librarian liaison recommends one-time purchase of JSTOR e-journal package. JSTOR is an archival database—it does not contain current content. However, JSTOR offers a big STEM e-journal package that would give students access in perpetuity, plus added content every year for FREE!

PASO Mentors and Advisors Dialogue Session

During the last Advisory Committee and Site Evaluation Meeting, it was suggested that student mentors and faculty advisors be provided a joint opportunity to engage in a dialogue regarding their mentoring and advising experiences. This exchange of ideas may generate helpful suggestions on improving the implementation of PASO’s “Proactive and Intrusive STEM Mentoring and Advising.” Mentors and faculty advisors met for this round-table discussion, which was moderated by Academic Resource Center Director Scott Weigand, for this very purpose. The event was a big success, providing mentors, faculty advisors, and staff with valuable take-aways which are now being incorporated into the program.

STEM Spotlight

LAVC student, Micah Feras, was awarded an internship for the Fall 2018 SIRI Program at NASA’s Jet Propulsion Lab (JPL). Because of her valuable contribution to the project, Micah’s JPL internship was extended indefinitely. The NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR), is a joint mission between NASA and ISRO to develop a dual band synthetic aperture radar (SAR) for satellite remote sensing measurement of the Earth’s surface. NISAR Radar Engineering team at JPL is responsible for the design, implementation, and testing of the L-band radar.
PASO STEM Scrapbook

PASO STEM PRESENTS

STEM SPEAKER SERIES:
MEDICAL & SCIENCE

Come engage with a panel of medical
and science professionals!

November 29, 2019
1:30-3:30 PM
Monarch Hall

SIGN UP:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScF1KDxZnS7Q9I8Bq58M299bQ6GZ4

ENGINEERING
WITHOUT
BORDERS

LAVC PASO STEM PRESENTS:

WOMEN IN STEM PANEL

Join us for a Q&A with professionals from STEM fields!

2/21/19 IN MONARCH HALL
FROM 1:30-3:30PM

Any Questions or Accommodations? Contact
Kerri Gaynor at (661) 293-7466.
Reflections on the PASO STEM Program

Student Thoughts on Advising, Mentoring, & Counseling

😊 Almost every student agreed/strongly agreed (91%) that their peer mentor was helpful.

😊 Almost every student agreed/strongly agreed (89%) that the meetings with peer mentors was valuable.

😊 Most students felt that their expectations of their peer mentor have been met (84%).

😊 The majority of students agreed/strongly agreed (77%) that their faculty advisors were helpful.

😊 The majority of students agreed/strongly agreed (78%) that their meetings with faculty advisors were helpful.

😊 The majority of students felt their expectations of their faculty advisor have been met (76%).

😊 The majority of students felt that their counseling session with the STEM Counselor (Kassidy Miller) was helpful (73% agreed/strongly agreed, 4% were neutral, and 20% were not applicable).

STEM Fall 2018 Cohort Demographics

“Almost every student felt the study space was really useful. It’s really helpful having the laptops because they’re fast and efficient, and if I need help on a subject the people there might provide [it] since most are taking/have taken it. At times, it’s the only quiet place I have to study and the most welcoming at school.”

“I love how safe and open the environment is. I have never felt alone or discouraged because everyone there is so welcoming. I found all the information super valuable and the text messages are as great reminders.”
Upcoming Events 2019-2020

FALL STEM SPEAKER SERIES
Health Sciences: 9/26/19
Technology & Engineering: 10/24/19
Phys. Science: 11/21/19

INTERNSHIP PANEL
10/10/19

WOMEN IN STEM PANEL:
2/27/2020

PI DAY:
3/12/2020

SUMMER STEM INVESTIGATIONS CAMP:
7/20 TO 7/31/20

@LAVC_STEM