Enhancing the STC Student Experience

STC Directors' Meeting
Aug. 28th-29th, 2012
Arlington, VA

"I have been <u>exposed</u> to scientists with knowledge very <u>different</u> from my own, and I've learned a lot from the experience. My <u>career path</u> has been shaped by the <u>collaborations</u> I've forged, and I intend to stay an <u>active member</u> throughout my tenure at MSU and when I eventually reach a professorship."

-Emily Weigel,
graduate student, BEACON

Recommendation Overview

- Creating institutional synergies through collaboration and communication, especially among students

- Facilitating student engagement

- Establishing career development, including giving mentorship and industry experience

- Creating additional student-specific funding opportunities

- Incentivising and enabling opportunities for students engaged in community outreach and education

Encouraging collaboration and communication

Inter-institutional
- STC newsletter---> Directors, Admin, Students
- Yearly primarily student retreats --> Education, Admin, Students
- Student exchanges for grad/undergrads --> Directors, Education, Students

Intra-institutional
- Improved website infrastructure to facilitate intra-center communication and outreach --> Directors, Education/Outreach, Admin, Students
- Communal office space for grad students and visiting scholars --> Directors, P.I.s

Facilitating student engagement

- Course/orientation to formally introduce new students to STC--> Directors, Education

- Engage students in grant writing process--> P.I.s

- Create an STC outstanding student award--> Directors, P.I.s, Education/Outreach, Students

- Yearly STC students' meeting across different STCs --> Education, Admin, Students

- Make it easier for students to access information about research/exchange opportunities --> Education, Admin

Creating additional funding opportunities

- Semester-long graduate research fellowships --> P.I.s, Directors

- Leverage existing and previous STC membership, develop database of contacts (academia and industry) --> Admin

- Online resources educating students about STC-related grants, fellowships --> Education/Outreach, Admin

Students in community outreach

- Incentivise student development of lesson plans for K-12 STEM education --> Education/Outreach, Students

- One-time guest lectures at nearby public schools --> Education/Outreach, Students

- Create ways to reach greater community outside of K-12 via development of interactive sites, games and other web-enabled technologies --> Education/Outreach, Students

We would like to thank the NSF for all their support and guidance as we build up our nation's intellectual capital!