

Poster Session for Conference Track: STEM Education

Title:

Recruitment and Retention with Project ECTEC: Exploration of Computing and Technology Education and Careers

Presenter:

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Abstract:

Exploration of Computing and Technology Education and Careers (ECTEC) at Buffalo State is a program designed to improve the recruitment and retention of underrepresented students in the Computer Information Systems (CIS) and Engineering Technology (ET) departments. Recognizing the national and state need for a larger STEM workforce, and more critically for a technically-trained workforce, the project is designed to increase the interest and representation of traditionally underrepresented groups in engineering technology and computing education and careers. By including two new courses like “Exploring Computing Systems and Engineering” (ECSE), and “Functions, Algorithms and Programs” (FAP), the program seeks to improve awareness, interest, readiness and motivation of underrepresented students to enter undergraduate programs in the computing and technology disciplines, and to consider technology or computer related career paths. Also, the program seeks to prepare them to successfully declare a major in one of these areas. These courses include various information technology awareness presentations with the goals of creating an awareness of the computer and engineering educational trajectories and career pathways; and attraction and retention of underrepresented students to the Computer Information Systems and Engineering Technology departments. The ECTEC project is funded by the SUNY Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion.