Community/Public Service Worksheet

Service Category: Educational Outreach Program

Title: CollegeFirst

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Center for Ethics & Social Responsibility
Office

Community Partner(s) (if any):
- A+ College Ready
  Organization
- Laying the Foundation
  Organization
- National Math & Science Initiative
  Organization
- Alabama Department of Education
  Organization
- Tuscaloosa City Schools
  Organization
- Tuscaloosa County Schools
  Organization
- Birmingham City Schools
  Organization
- Jefferson County Schools
  Organization
- Huntsville City Schools
  Organization
- Madison County Schools
  Organization

Program Description: CollegeFirst: An Advanced Placement Mentoring Initiative
CollegeFirst partners college students with high school students for three weeks of tutoring during Summer Term. UA students choose to serve in Tuscaloosa, Birmingham or Huntsville, and spend an initial week learning how to be instructors/tutors. Instruction includes examination and discussion of issues related to educational disparities and creative education reform initiatives. The following three weeks are spent tutoring high school students planning to take AP calculus, chemistry, English Language, or biology in the upcoming school year.

Objectives/Outcomes:
1) Increase student familiarity with concepts that will be covered in math, science, and English AP courses
2) Increase significantly the number and diversity of students taking and passing math, science, and English Advanced Placement courses and exams in high school
3) Increase the number of students attending college and graduating from college with degrees in math and science.

Assessment Measures: CollegeFirst documents all hours contributed by participating staff and students in direct service to high school students. We will measure the impact of tutoring on the AP students based on a comparison of AP exam scores between those who received tutoring and those
who did not. Diagnostic tests during the Institute are also utilized to measure student progress.

Results: During the fourth annual CollegeFirst Summer Advanced Placement Institute (held in June 2013), 59 trained college students provided academic instruction in chemistry, biology, pre-calculus, and English to 306 high school students from Birmingham City, Jefferson County, Huntsville City, Madison County, Tuscaloosa City, and Tuscaloosa County schools.

Conclusions: College student mentors working with the CollegeFirst program were able to successfully share their excitement and academic expertise with the high school students, ensuring that high school students are better prepared for the rigors of AP and college coursework.

Improvement Actions: During the 2014-15 year, CollegeFirst plans to partner with additional high schools for the AP summer institute. We plan to serve more than 300 students next year and engage more than 65 volunteers in service with the CollegeFirst initiative.