The Bermuda Institute of Ocean Sciences REU Program
Tools for Measuring Success

Authors: P. Barnes 1, R. Parsons 1 and A. Peters 1
1Bermuda Institute of Ocean Sciences, St. George’s, Bermuda

The Bermuda Institute of Ocean Sciences (BIOS) is an independent US non-profit scientific research and educational organization based in Bermuda.

For over 100 years, BIOS-based researchers and visiting scientists have worked to explore the oceans and address important local and global environmental issues.

BIOS views education as a crucial part of ocean science research, helping to translate the work of our scientists into meaningful experiences for students of all ages.

BIOS has been an Ocean Sciences REU Site since 1991, with 199 undergraduate students monitored over these 26 years.

Students enrolled in the BIOS REU Program have represented 109 colleges/universities over the past 20 years.

Annually since 2010, 12.5% to 62.5% of REU students enrolled in the BIOS program have self-identified as minority applicants on their application.

Tools to measure the success of an REU Program include:

1. Student project diversity
2. Student feedback
3. Publications and conference presentations
4. REU Program Alumni

NSF REU at BIOS

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Publication Rate

• Publication rate can be used as a measure of success for a REU Program. A dedicated webpage (http://www.bios.edu/education/reu/), which profiles BIOS students, events, and achievements.

Poster-Presentations.pdf

• Poster presentations at conferences and symposiums are suited to conference presentations, especially posters.

Email Marketing

• With a dedicated webpage (http://www.bios.edu/education/reu/), which profiles BIOS students, events, and achievements, email marketing can be an effective tool to engage potential applicants.

Tools for Measuring Success

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Student Project Diversity

• BIOS scientists represent a diversity of research interests, which translates into diverse REU student projects. Research themes at BIOS include:
  1. Oceanography: Physical, Chemical and Biological
  2. Coral Reef Ecology
  3. Environmental and Atmospheric Chemistry
  4. Molecular Biology, Phylogeny and Evolution
  5. Microbial Ecology
  6. Climate Change
  7. Risk Prediction Analysis

Student Feedback

• In 2015, all BIOS REU evaluations switched to using SurveyMonkey.
• BIOS REU students complete evaluations 4 weeks into the program and again, in the last week of the 12-week program.
• Student feedback is vital to addressing problems identified early in the program and improving future programs.
• The annual student evaluations (2013-2015) rated the BIOS REU Program from 8.0 to 9.1 out of 10.
• Student feedback is an excellent resource that can be used to assess the program and evaluate student satisfaction.

“Through this experience I was able to gain a better understanding of what it means to do research as well as giving me the opportunity to explore living in a new country. I would definitely recommend this to anyone.” M. Simonetti (REU 2013)

“My REU internship at BIOS was an incredible experience. I learned a lot from the guidance of my mentors and grew as a researcher by working independently on an extensive research project. I now feel even more enthusiastic about attending graduate school and pursuing a career in research.” C. Emmeran (REU 2014)

Acknowledgments

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