Mid-Program Concept Map Presentation
Research Experience for Community College Students in Critical Zone Science (RECCS)
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**Purpose:** This activity gives interns a chance to reflect upon and organize their thoughts around all aspects of their research project, present their project in an informal setting and get feedback from their peers at the midpoint of their research experience.

**Materials:**
- Large sticky note pad
- Darkly colored markers
- Masking tape if note paper is not self-sticking

**Time:** 10 minutes for explanation of activity; 15 minutes to draw Concept Map; 5 minutes for each student to present. For 10 students total time = 2 hours.

**Activity:** We did this roughly mid-program as part of our weekly half-day training. The Program Manager explained the purpose of the activity and what a concept map is. Each intern then received a large sticky note and a marker to draw a Concept Map of their project. The picture shows the categories and topics that the interns could include. Once everybody completed their Concept Maps, they briefly presented their projects to their peers. At the completion of each presentation, questions and feedback were given by the other interns. The Concept Maps could be updated based on the feedback to help guide them in completing their projects.

**Evaluation:** This activity was rated very highly by our interns. They felt it really helped them understand how all the different aspects of their project fit together and gave them a basis for their poster presentations. They also felt more confident because they had a roadmap they had developed themselves, and they saw that they were on the right track. They also highly valued the questions and suggestions from their peers – some even mentioned that they made some changes to their approach based on the feedback.