The Douglass Project for Rutgers Women in Math, Science, and Engineering

Bunting-Cobb Residence Hall for Women Pursuing the Sciences

Project SUPER: *Science for Undergraduates*
*A Program for Excellence in Research*

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Women and particularly minority women’s underrepresented status in the sciences make them a distinct population to advise. However, as female students become more affiliated with their departments and research they simultaneously become disconnected from communities of support. This presentation outlines our programs for enriching their science education.
The National Science Foundation has issued many serious threats for the national workforce if women do not persist in the STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) fields. The Douglass Project at the Douglass Residential College is credited with being the first to create a residence hall solely for women in the sciences, called Bunting-Cobb.

We will focus our talk in four areas

- providing internship opportunities
- creating a community of advising and mentoring
- coalition building
- developing programming that creates opportunities for our students.
Women’s Colleges = Leadership

Smith, Wolf, and Morrison (1995) found:

- Positive experiences with faculty and staff
- Institutions more concerned with student learning and involvement
- Encourage extracurricular involvement and leadership
Douglass Project Undergraduate Programs

Bandura’s Theory of Self-Efficacy

• Student’s perceived self-efficacy is defined as her beliefs about her capabilities to operate at a level of performance that allows her influence over events that affect her life.

• Self-efficacy beliefs determine how people feel, think, motivate themselves, and behave.
Douglass Project Undergraduate Programs

- A strong sense of self efficacy enhances accomplishment – four main ways to build self efficacy
  - Mastery experiences
  - Strong mentors – observational experiences
  - Positive feedback and social persuasion
  - Reducing barriers
Project SUPER

- Open to all women pursuing the sciences at Rutgers University
- Programs of support are academic year specific
- Internship opportunities
- Special funding opportunities
- Leadership building opportunities/Volunteer opportunities
  - STEM Ambassadors
  - Outreach program
Project SUPER - Mentoring

- Assists with acculturation to STEM departments particularly physical sciences and mathematics

Mentors

- Share knowledge about the field
- Provide assistance with career and professional development
- Are role models
- Provide emotional support
Bunting-Cobb Residence Hall
First residence hall in the nation devoted to women pursuing the sciences – opened in the fall of 1989

- 4 graduate fellows and 100 undergraduate residents
- 10-12 professional/academic development programs
- In-house library and computer facility
- Tutoring sessions Sunday through Thursday night
Bunting-Cobb as a Living/Learning Community

- Small, thematic environment

- Links curricular, co-curricular, residential, and peer networks which enhances student learning and development

- Provides advising/mentoring opportunities for students
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Questions?