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A UNIQUE COLLEGE-ACCESS PROGRAM EMPOWERING UNDERREPRESENTED YOUTH FOR SUCCESSFUL CAREERS IN THE SCIENCES

A University of California Davis Youth Education and Outreach Program
As a chapter of the national EnvironMentors’ program, the goal and mission of AggieMentors is to expose underrepresented high school students to higher education. Every year, Sacramento area high school students undertake an intensive 9-month long research project in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). Graduate and undergraduate student mentors guide their mentees through the research process advised by faculty members. The program culminates with a science fair on local, as well as on national level, providing an opportunity to the high school students to

“Being a part of AggieMentors has helped me learn more about science. It’s been a fantastic experience and I would do it again. With this program you really gain a connection with your mentor and they really encourage you to keep learning and never give up. It’s great program.” Diana Gomez, 2015 Patrick Lalley Memorial Scholarship for Excellence in Biodiversity & Conservation.

Erin Murphy during the awards ceremony in Washington, DC.

“Thanks to the program and my mentor, I feel prepared with my speaking skills and am confident in my research and writing skills. I would like everyone to know that AggieMentors is one of the best experiences I have had throughout high school.” Erin Murphy, 2015 Emerging Environmental Leader Award winner.

“In our first year, we were the youngest mentor-student pair. That year Erin’s project led her to earn the Research in Environmental Toxicology award and allowed her to present her research via webinar to the Fish and Wildlife Service. AggieMentors’ has prepared Erin with the patience, flexibility and determination for her academic career. I cannot wait until the day when I can give back to AggieMentors” Trent Ichijuji, animal science undergraduate student mentor.

“AggieMentors is a great way for high school students to get an early introduction to academic research and allows them to pursue a research question with university resources and guidance.” Stephen Maples, hydrologic sciences graduate student mentor.

AggieMentors

Over the past 10 years we have trained 154 UC Davis students to become high school student mentors.

Over 140 high school students from underrepresented and disadvantaged backgrounds have graduated from our program.

At this point more than 80 students are successfully enrolled at higher education institutions, 85% of whom are first generation college students.