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Respondent

16

Anonymous

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Time to complete

Application Information

1. Name: *

Asmik Oganesyanyan

2. GCC Title/Position: *

Professor of Chemistry

3. Department: *

Chemistry/Physical Science Division

4. Campus: *

Verdugo

Garfield

5. E-mail: *

aoganesy@glendale.edu

6. Phone: *

818-240-1000 x 5348

7. Dean or Department Head's Name: *

Jeremy Talaoc/Sevada Chamras

Project Proposal

8. Name of Project/Program: *

GCC STEM Fellowship Program

9. Please select which category best describes your project: *

- Arts & Culture
- Athletics & Fitness
- Career & Work Training
- College Operations & Facilities
- Humanities/Social Sciences
- Science & Technology

10. Amount requested: *

\$10,000 for academic year

11. What do you propose to do? *

The proposed GCC STEM Fellowship Program will create paid mentorship and academic support opportunities for outstanding GCC STEM alumni who have completed their bachelor's degrees and are preparing for graduate, medical, pharmacy, dental, or research careers. These STEM Alumni Fellows will serve as near-peer mentors who understand GCC's academic environment and student challenges firsthand. Fellows will assist with laboratory instruction, support classroom learning, guide undergraduate research projects, mentor STEM clubs, hold academic support sessions, and share their university and transfer experiences through workshops and presentations. By bridging the gap between current student support services and professional faculty development programs, this initiative will strengthen student engagement, retention, transfer success, and STEM identity while simultaneously providing valuable leadership and teaching experience for GCC alumni preparing for advanced academic and professional pathways.

12. Who will be involved in the project/program? *

I will be mentoring the students and also will involve the Dean of STEM and Division Chair of Physical sciences to incorporate this pilot program in other areas of STEM

13. What are the benefits of this project/program to the students, college, and the community? *

The GCC STEM Fellowship Program will benefit students by providing accessible mentorship from successful GCC alumni who have firsthand experience navigating transfer pathways, rigorous STEM coursework, undergraduate research, and university life. Students will gain academic support, research guidance, career exposure, and relatable role models who can inspire confidence and persistence in STEM fields. The college will benefit through improved student engagement, retention, transfer success, and strengthened STEM community culture, while also creating leadership opportunities for GCC alumni and strengthening GCC's reputation as a transfer-focused institution committed to student success. The broader community will benefit from the development of a stronger and more diverse STEM workforce, increased educational advancement within the region, and the cultivation of future scientists, healthcare professionals, educators, and researchers who began their educational journey at GCC and continue to give back through mentorship and service.

14. How does this project/program support the College's Institutional Strategic Plan? *

View ISP at <https://www.glendale.edu/home/showpublisheddocument/68172>

The GCC STEM Fellowship Program directly supports the College's Institutional Strategic Plan by promoting student success, equity, engagement, and transfer achievement within STEM disciplines. The program strengthens academic support systems through peer mentorship, research guidance, and experiential learning opportunities that increase student persistence and confidence in challenging STEM pathways. By employing GCC alumni who successfully transferred to four-year institutions, the program fosters a culture of belonging, leadership, and academic excellence while strengthening pathways between GCC and universities. In addition, the program supports workforce and professional development goals by preparing future educators, researchers, healthcare professionals, and STEM leaders through meaningful mentorship and teaching experiences that benefit both current students and participating fellows.

15. Timeline for the project/program. *

I am planning to start in the Fall of 2026 and complete the pilot program by the end of the academic year.

16. How do you propose to use the funds requested? Please include specific budget information. *

I am planning to hire 3-4 students per year to perform fellowship duties 5 hours per week for 12 weeks per semester (\$20 hourly rate). With max of four students per year, it will result in \$9600 budget. The remaining \$400 can be used for other purposes (for example, if the students will give talks, vouchers can be provided for presentation at \$50 value, total \$200 per year). We can also provide registration fees for a conferences they would want to present their experience at GCC in this program.

17. Please list any other sources of funding you have applied for and include dollar amounts if already awarded. *

Since this is a pilot program, I am looking at other venues as well, but for now this is the program we are applying to.

18. How will the Foundation's support be recognized? *

This program will be a highlight of student applications to graduate programs and also will be recognized if they participate or publish their educational experiences in peer reviewed article.

19. How do you plan to evaluate this project's success? *

The success of the GCC STEM Fellowship Program will be evaluated through both quantitative and qualitative measures. Quantitative outcomes will include student participation rates, course retention and success rates in supported STEM courses, transfer rates, student engagement in research and STEM activities, and utilization of fellowship-led support services. The program will also track the academic and professional advancement of participating STEM Fellows, including graduate school admissions and continued involvement in STEM education or research. Qualitative assessment will include student surveys, faculty feedback, fellow reflections, and testimonials evaluating mentorship effectiveness, student confidence, sense of belonging in STEM, and overall program impact. These assessment measures will guide continuous improvement and demonstrate the program's value to GCC students and the college community.

20. If your project/program is successful, how will it inform your practice moving forward? *

If successful, the GCC STEM Fellowship Program will serve as a sustainable model for expanding near-peer mentorship, research engagement, and academic support across STEM disciplines at GCC. The program will help identify best practices for improving student retention, confidence, and transfer success through mentorship from former GCC students who have successfully navigated similar academic pathways. Lessons learned from the program will inform future instructional practices, student support strategies, and collaborative initiatives between faculty, alumni, and university partners. In the long term, the program could be expanded to additional STEM disciplines and integrated into broader institutional efforts focused on equity, student achievement, workforce development, and transfer success.

21. Please provide a 2 – 3 sentence summary of your project proposal. *

The GCC STEM Fellowship Program will employ outstanding GCC STEM alumni who have completed their bachelor's degrees to serve as mentors, laboratory leaders, research guides, and academic support fellows for current students. By bridging the gap between peer tutoring and professional mentorship, the program will strengthen student engagement, retention, transfer success, and STEM identity while providing valuable leadership and teaching experience for participating fellows preparing for advanced academic and professional careers.

Signature and Acknowledgments

22. I hereby acknowledge/certify: *

- My Dean or department head is aware of this application and has authorized its submission.
- If my proposal involves the hiring of temporary/contracted professionals, I will obtain approval from Human Resources before proceeding and will provide documentation to the Foundation that the hiring/contracting has been reviewed and approved.
- If my proposal involves conference and/or other travel, I will complete the GCC travel approval process and adhere to GCC travel guidelines.