

Impact of CAREER Award on Awardee Perspective

Eugene Billiot

Texas A&M University Corpus Christi (TAMUCC)

The Alliance for Graduate Education and the Professoriate (AGEP) seeks to join together universities and colleges in the common mission of increasing the number of underrepresented minority students earning PhDs and positioning minority students to become leaders in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields.

Each AGEP alliance employs creative administrative strategies, develops infrastructure, and engages in substantive partnerships with nondoctoral-granting institutions (many minority-serving institutions) to enhance recruitment, retention, and advancement.

Impact of CAREER Award on Awardee Perspective

- Brief Bio
- Institution
- Research
- Career
- Other

Brief Bio

- Third child of a family of 12
- Father
 - no education
 - Native American
 - born and raised in the swamps of Louisiana
 - hunt, fished and trapped for a living
- Mother
 - Elementary school education
- Myself
 - HATED high school
 - Seminary
 - Undergraduate research experience
 - Graduate School
 - Academic career
 - choice of institution

Institution

TAMUCC – Chemistry program

- 10 years ago (strictly service program – part of interdisciplinary department)
 - 3 faculty
 - no research
 - instrumentation - all old donated instruments
 - No graduate program
- Now (~120 majors, will form separate department next year)
 - Faculty
 - 7 tenure track faculty
 - 4 full time instructor positions
 - 4 part time adjuncts
 - All 7 tenure track faculty actively engaged in research as well as one instructor
 - Instrumentation - all instrumentation “new” not donated
 - Currently working on approval of graduate program for implementation in 2010 or 2011

Research

- TAMUCC – Chemistry program: Now and 10 years ago (higher profile program)
 - Increase in # of majors
 - Increase in # of faculty
 - More research opportunities for students
 - More and better instrumentation
 - Separate department and graduate program soon

Research

- Personally
 - 5 year grant
 - Opened MANY doors for collaboration
 - Easier to get funding for other initiatives of interest
 - Outreach to K-12
 - Texas P-16 Vertical Alignment Team
 - Training grants (REU and similar programs)
 - 2 REUs
 - UMEB
 - Scholarship grants
 - 2 S-STEM grants
 - Infrastructure support
 - Instrumentation
 - 4 MRIs
 - Faculty development
 - FRC

Career

- “Ensures” promotion and tenure (*well at least it certainly goes a long way to ensuring it anyway*)
- Increased profile assists in future career advancement (Chair, Dean, etc if that is your goal)
- Significantly increases individual profile
 - Numerous invitations by university personnel (President, Provost, Dean, Chair, etc. to serve as spokesperson for them)
 - Numerous invitations to speak at conferences, etc. (at least in my case)
 - This recognition gives you more influence and clout to help you accomplish your own personal goals and objectives
- Helps kick start research (five year grant) and helps enhance chances of further funding

Other

- URC
- Outreach to K-12
- Faculty Development
- Help first generation economically challenged students realize college and graduate school is not just for those “rich white kids”
- Providing more opportunities for first generation economically challenged students to be able to go to college and be successful

Conclusion / Preaching

- Apply for CAREER grant and encourage others to do so as well
- Also, if at first you don't succeed - try and try again
- Failure is NOT TRYING!!!!!!!!!!!!!!