

Abstract Submitted
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Topics in Current Science Research: Closing the Achievement Gap for Under Resourced Students of Color ALVARO LOYA VILLALPANDO, Undergraduate Research Assistant, MIGUEL DAAL, ARRAN PHIPPS, DANIELLE SPELLER, Graduate Student Researchers, BERNARD SADOULET, Principal Investigator, RACHEL WINHELD, Program Coordinator, CRYOGENIC DARK MATTER SEARCH COLLABORATION — Topics in Current Science Research (TCSR) is a five-week summer course offered at the University of California, Berkeley through a collaboration between the Level Playing Field Institute's Summer Math and Science Honors Academy (SMASH) Program and the Cryogenic Dark Matter Search (CDMS) group at UC Berkeley. SMASH is an academic enrichment program geared towards under-resourced, high school students of color. The goals of the course are to expand the students' conception of STEM, to teach the students that science is a method of inquiry and not just a collection of facts that are taught in school, and to expose the scholars to critical thinking within a scientific setting. The course's curriculum engages the scholars in hands-on scientific research, project proposal writing, and presentation of their scientific work to their peers as well as to a panel of UC Berkeley scientists. In this talk, we describe the course and the impact it has had on previous scholars, we discuss how the course's pedagogy has evolved over the past 10 years to enhance students' perception and understanding of science, and we present previous participants' reflections and feedback about the course and its success in providing high school students a genuine research experience at the university level.

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None

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