CAMPARE and Cal-Bridge: Two Institutional Networks Increasing Diversity in Astronomy

ALEXANDER RUDOLPH, Cal Poly Pomona, TAMMY SMECKER-HANE, UC Irvine — We describe two programs, CAMPARE and Cal-Bridge, with the common mission of increasing participation of groups traditionally underrepresented in astronomy, through summer research opportunities, in the case of CAMPARE, scholarships in the case of Cal-Bridge, and significant mentoring in both programs, creating a national impact on their numbers successfully pursuing a PhD in the field. In 7 years, the CAMPARE summer research program has sent 80 students, >80% from underrepresented groups, to conduct summer research at one of 10 major research institutions throughout the country. Of the CAMPARE scholars who have graduated with a Bachelor’s degree, more than 60% have completed or are pursuing graduate education in astronomy, physics, or a related field. Cal-Bridge is a CSU-UC Bridge program comprised of faculty from 5 UC and 9 CSU campuses in Southern California. In the first three years, 22 Cal-Bridge Scholars have been selected, including 11 Hispanic, 3 African-American and 8 female students, 5 of whom are from URM groups. Nineteen (19) of the 22 Cal-Bridge Scholars are first-generation college students. Cal-Bridge provides much deeper mentoring and professional development experiences over the last two years of undergraduate and first year of graduate school to students from this diverse network of higher education institutions. Cal-Bridge Scholars benefit from substantial financial support, intensive, joint mentoring by CSU and UC faculty, professional development workshops, and exposure to research opportunities at the participating UC campuses.

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