Contact Information

118 Office and Lab/Graduate College
Iowa State University
Ames, Iowa 50011-3020
Phone: 515-294-6151
inspire@iastate.edu
www.inspirelsamp.iastate.edu

Danielle R. Mitchell, Program Manager
mitchell@iastate.edu

Diane T. Rover, Alliance Director
drover@iastate.edu

www.inspirelsamp.iastate.edu/directors.php

INSPIRE-LSAMP is supported by NSF Award Number HRD-1102461 (2011-2016).
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The Iowa Illinois Nebraska STEM Partnership for Innovation in Research and Education (IINSPIRE) is an NSF LSAMP alliance among 16 two-year and four-year colleges and universities working together to broaden the participation of underrepresented minorities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education in the Midwest. The IINSPIRE Alliance colleges and universities collaborate to support students, increase their success, and provide students in the alliance with academic, research, training, and networking opportunities.

What is LSAMP?
The Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation (LSAMP) Program is a National Science Foundation program designed to substantially increase the quantity and quality of students, especially minorities, in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). The NSF LSAMP program has a long-term goal of increasing the number of underrepresented students who complete baccalaureate degrees in STEM fields and enter STEM professions.
IINSPIRE Mission
The IINSPIRE LSAMP mission is to develop a model for Midwest colleges and universities to attract the states’ growing underrepresented minority (URM) population into STEM fields and attract students from other regions to STEM education opportunities in Iowa, Illinois, and Nebraska. This will be accomplished through the following strategies:
• Grow the pool of college-ready, STEM-prepared URM high school students
• Increase the number of URM students who choose STEM at each IINSPIRE Alliance institution
• Improve retention at all IINSPIRE Alliance institutions

IINSPIRE Alliance Objectives
• Inform teachers, counselors, parents, and students in Iowa, Nebraska, and Illinois about the IINSPIRE LSAMP Program and increase their awareness about STEM careers
• Engage current alliance students having interest and potential in STEM and increase their awareness about STEM majors and careers
• Collaborate with community-based recruiting models within the alliance
• Leverage and create initiatives that assist students in their transitions from high schools to colleges and from community colleges to bachelor-granting institutions
• Facilitate faculty collaboration across the alliance to share inclusive pedagogy and mentoring practices that lead to greater student success
• Connect and support students with mentored research opportunities
• Organize research training experiences for alliance students to earn a research certificate
• Provide training and resources for mentors who supervise undergraduate research projects
• Leverage institutional resources and partnerships, and use alliance and institutional data to implement effective programs based on institution-specific needs
• Assess alliance-wide and institutional outcomes and use evaluation results to inform and improve practices

How to get involved
To learn more about becoming involved with the IINSPIRE LSAMP Alliance, visit our website, www.inspiresamp.iastate.edu, contact the alliance office at 515-294-6151, or e-mail us at inspire@iastate.edu.

IINSPIRE LSAMP Benefits for Students
The program is open to undergraduate students who are enrolled or accepted for enrollment at any of the IINSPIRE LSAMP Alliance institutions and who meet the following requirements:
• United States citizen or permanent resident
• College GPA of 2.5 or high school GPA of 3.3
• Major in a science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM) discipline

Students benefit as a member of the IINSPIRE student network, research intern, or bridge participant by the following:
• Joining a community of peers, mentors, faculty, and administrators who will help them excel at their institution and throughout the alliance
• Making connections with some of the alliance’s most respected faculty
• Participating in special academic success programs in STEM areas
• Participating in research opportunities with faculty at any of the alliance institutions
• Receiving information about upcoming events and summer and academic year STEM research opportunities
• Gaining access to student services, such as mentoring, career development, etc.
• Presenting research at the annual conference poster competition

More information about participation is available at the program website, www.inspiresamp.iastate.edu, or by contacting the IINSPIRE LSAMP office.

IINSPIRE Alliance Institutions (see map above)
Each institution is led by a campus director. Please refer to the program website for a list of all directors.

A Augustana College
B Des Moines Area Community College
C Duane College
D Eastern Iowa Community College District
E Grinnell College
F Hawkeye Community College
G Iowa State University
H Iowa Valley Community College District
I Kirkwood Community College
J Little Priest Tribal College
K Luther College
L Nebraska Wesleyan University
M University of Iowa
N University of Northern Iowa
O Upper Iowa University
P Wartburg College

Alliance Partners
IINSPIRE LSAMP works with a number of industrial and governmental partners. Partners have a commitment to broadening participation in STEM and meeting state and national STEM workforce needs. Partners offer various types of opportunities and support to the program, including interfacing with state level policies and activities, supporting K-12 outreach, and providing internships and other financial support. Partners are listed at the IINSPIRE website. Those interested in partnering should contact the alliance office or contact the IINSPIRE external partner liaison, J. Adin Mann.