EXITO Community,

At EXITO, we strive to evaluate our program by learning as much as we can about the experience of the diverse individuals who engage in EXITO. This means that whether you are a Mentor, Scholar, or Research Learning Community Leader within EXITO you have probably been asked to participate in some level of program evaluation. We do this because we believe that your unique and individual perspective is crucial for our program success and we want to learn as much as we can about EXITO and its participants.

This month’s newsletter features our Evaluation Team and a few key points they are excited to share from their recent evaluation work. We have so much to learn and are excited to see all we will uncover as we continue building this community!

Evaluation Team Updates

Adrienne and Matt recently attended a first-ever BUILD Evaluator’s meeting at UCLA. They worked with evaluators at the other nine BUILD sites to discuss how site level data collection and analysis can be streamlined with the BUILD-level evaluation plan, which is run by the Coordination and Evaluation Center (CEC) at UCLA. The Evaluation Team is also planning contributions to the CEC presentation that will be shared with the NIH regarding BUILD-EXITO’s recompete for a second five-year grant. At the EXITO level, the Evaluation Team will soon contact sites for Scholar, Fall 2016, institutional records. This will be the first data pull for Cohort 2 scholars in addition to the Fall 2016 data for Cohort 1 scholars. PIs and people responsible for data collection should be expecting an email from Matt soon.

Best,

The Evaluation Team

Program Highlights

2016 Orientation Survey Results

The 2016 Orientation Survey was completed by incoming Cohort 2 Scholars. Below are a few things that stood out about our newest cohort with regard to questions related to their finances and academic success.
Demographic data gathered show the average Scholar age of the second cohort is 22, with 31 years separating the youngest from the oldest. 50.6% reported major concern about their ability to finance college and an additional 43.8% had some concern. That is a total of 94.4% who have at least some concern about financing college.

More than half of Scholars reported they needed at least a little help for ALL six areas given including writing, math, reading, study skill, finances, and other subject areas. 35.2% of Scholars said they would need "a lot of help in math" to be successful. An additional 49.5% said they would need a little bit of help in math.

CREDIT Survey for RLC Mentors and Scholars

Scholars and their Research Mentors took a 14 question survey near the end of their RLC placement in the spring of 2016. There were some interesting results, namely that mentors and Scholars viewed the types of activities that Scholars were doing in their RLC differently in some categories with Scholars believing they had more responsibility for writing than their mentors believed they did.

Click here for the entire report

A question for us to consider as a community, what can we learn from this? And, how can we all work together to support Scholars as they navigate the challenges of managing limited resources and paying for college?

Any and all feedback is welcome at honore@ohsu.edu.
The below shows responses to the question about how much "Writing-reviewing and editing" was a part of Scholar's work in the RLC.

Click here for the entire report

We’d like to hear any feedback on the results and the instrument itself. Additionally, why do you think disparities between Scholars and Research Mentors exist in terms of how they see the task of writing in the RLC?

Any and all feedback is welcome at honore@ohsu.edu.

---

**Rachel (Ray) Anthony**
Health Science major, Student of Life, EMT
Portland Community College
From Central + Northern California

*I chose to be a part of BUILD EXITO for a few reasons, as I am sure most people did. I have seen the disparity of representation in my community in STEM fields, as well as the harm inflicted from these areas towards underrepresented populations. I wanted to be at the front line to change the health and wellness in my community, but had no idea how I would get there financially or academically. That's where BUILD EXITO came in the picture. I feel so focused now, (looking at PA programs and beyond) and although it will be a long way till the completion of my academics, I don't feel alone anymore. It's a support system that is unlike any other, full of awareness and connections that I would never have been able to do on my own.*

*I am pumped to learn and grow with the EXITO community, as well as contribute my knowledge...*
and support to Scholars and teachers alike. In healing, it is always more productive to use a holistic approach, and I see the EXITO community as continuous and reciprocal. I hope that this will be a life-long collaboration.