



Broader Impacts of the Center for Science of Information's Integrated Education and Diversity Program – Legacy and Lessons Learned

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Abstract:

The Center for Science of Information (CSol), NSF Science & Technology Center (2010 – current), developed a fully integrated education and diversity program to successfully train a next generation of scientists in the emerging data and information science domains while broadening participation at undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral levels.

Outcomes include building a community of practice with more than 70 alumni directly matriculating from CSol into faculty positions, team-based interdisciplinary research training that expands student capacity for crossing domain and institutional borders, and a science of information curriculum for all reaching many thousands of learners in over 180 countries, with classroom courses established at 22 universities.

Broader impacts include a large and robust undergraduate research training program with significant participation of women, U.S. citizens, and minority students, along with support of graduate students that has eclipsed traditional baseline participation for these populations. The CSol instituted a unique Center-wide postdoctoral fellows program that has resulted in half of these fellows representing women, minority, and/or U.S. citizens.

Specific programmatic pathways and key lessons learned positioning the CSol as a catalyst and hub for these outcomes will be discussed.