



Learning Community to start Fall Semester 2022

Vision Statement of the Islands of Opportunity Alliance (IOA)-LSAMP:

The Islands of Opportunity Alliance (IOA) is a network of 11 campuses across Oceania supported by the NSF-funded Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation (LSAMP) program. The IOA aims to prepare and diversify the STEM workforce in Oceania by providing culturally relevant education and research experiences, rooted in indigenous languages and cultures. The IOA supports students at each partner campus through its particular Learning Community.

NMC Hatsa Vision Statement of the Islands of Opportunity Alliance (IOA)-LSAMP:

The Northern Marianas College Hatsa STEM Scholars Program is a learning community committed to helping Pacific Islanders, specifically the indigenous Chamorros and Carolinians of the Marianas, succeed in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Inspired by the Chamorro word hatsa, which translates as "lift, raise, and build", the program engages students in rigorous and robust scientific research that is grounded in indigenous epistemology and cultural values. The program offers cultural immersion, community building experiences, volunteer opportunities, place-based learning, faculty-guided research and summer internship experiences, academic support, professional development, STEM skills development, peer mentoring, and graduate school exploration.

Required Activities Linked to Stipends

IOA-LSAMP students will receive a range of \$500 to \$700 per semester depending on the availability of funds through the grant.

Students at every IOA-LSAMP campus are required to:

- Attend face-to-face orientation with other LSAMP students on campus or via-zoom
- Volunteer for K-12 outreach
- Engage in a research experience
- Present research experience at the annual IOA student symposium or another student conference (if funding is not available for all students to travel to the IOA symposium).
- Complete pre-program and post-program surveys
- Complete mentor/mentee agreement form
- Take NS 120 Research Comprehension in STEM class

NMC Hatsa Learning Community

10 Target Number of Participants

Applications Now Open!



Application

Interested students should submit an application for entrance into the Northern Marianas College Hatsa STEM Scholars Program to Ms. Velma C. Deleon Guerrero.

For more information, please contact



NMC IOA-LSAMP
Campus Coordinator
and Principal
Investigator

Velma C. Deleon Guerrero
velma.deleon.guerrero@marianas.edu
670-237-6740
Building K room K-18



Hatsa Incoming Students & 2nd year. Students are required to:

- 1st year and returning 2nd year NMC Hatsa students will receive a range of \$500 to \$700 per semester depending on the availability of funds through the grant per semester) in the form of a stipend;
- In addition to the requirements for all IOA-LSAMP students, 1st year Hatsa students must also volunteer 16 hours per semester (e.g. tabling events, community service, environmental stewardship, K-12 outreach, etc). Required event: Public and/or Private STEM Fair;
- Attend discussion/seminar sessions with experts in different STEM fields;
- Explore different types of jobs, research opportunities, and undergraduate and graduate schools;
- Identify a faculty mentor to explore ideas for research (can take place in Year 2);
- Interact virtually with other IOA-LSAMP students at partner campuses;
- Prepare for summer internship experiences in STEM, such as PIPES;
- Participate in a group research project facilitated by the campus coordinator;
- Community engagement through STEM-related service projects;
- Present research at the end-of-the semester spring semester during National Undergraduate Research Week in April and the annual IOA student symposium;

Peer Mentors

Hatsa students who have completed Year 1 are stipend-eligible for serving as senior peer mentors. They will receive a range of \$500 to \$700 per semester depending on the availability of funds through the grant per person per semester) in the form of a student stipend. In addition to the requirements for all IOA-LSAMP students, 2nd year Hatsa students must also:

- Volunteer 16 hours per semester (e.g. tabling events, community service, environmental stewardship, K-12 outreach, etc).
- Mentor Hatsa 1st year students meetings at least 1-2 times per week;
- Interact virtually with other IOA-LSAMP students at partner campuses;
- Prepare for summer internship experiences in STEM, such as PIPES;
- Participate in a faculty-led research project during the academic year, approved by campus coordinator;
- Community engagement through STEM-related service projects;
- Present research at the end-of-the semester spring semester during National Undergraduate Research Week in April, and the annual IOA student symposium, and at least one student conference.

Eligibility

IOA-LSAMP students must be enrolled at Northern Marianas College and be an underrepresented minority (URM) student (based on ethnicity). Preference is given to students of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (NHPI) heritage.

4-year institutions: Students must be pursuing a STEM degree

2-year institutions: Students must earn a 2-year degree with the intent of transferring to a 4-year institution in pursuit of a STEM degree or enter the STEM workforce with a terminal 2-year degree.

Advisory Board

David Benavente

M.Sc Marine Biology, Program Manager, Micronesia Alliance Nature Alliance (MINA)

Dr. Virendra Verma, Ph.D

Ph.D. Scientist (Horticulture/Crop), NMC CREES

Dr. Willson Gaul, Ph.D

Associate Professor of Science, NMC Faculty

Kelsey McClellan

M.Sc Marine Biology, Scientist, Johnston Applied Marine Sciences

Michael C. Tenorio

Fisheries Supervisor, Department of Lands and Natural Resources (DLNR) DCRM

IOA-LSAMP Personnel

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