



Office of the President

February 28, 2024

Kamelia Algiers, STEM Harbor Grant Lead
STEM Harbor

Dear Kammy,

Thank you for all the work you put into completing your comprehensive program review. It has been reviewed by the College Planning Committee and the Executive Team. The College Planning Committee feedback is attached. Below, you will find comments, commendations, and recommendations from the Executive Team. These are provided for incorporation into your annual program planning processes. Typically, recommendations require planning improvements that will be implemented over time. Thus, in your subsequent annual mini reviews, you'll want to provide updates on progress made towards addressing these recommendations.

Comments:

STEM Harbor (SH) supports students in STEM classes, whether they are STEM majors or not – which uniquely allows the program to support students no matter where they are at in their STEM educational journey. At the center, the small group study sessions, faculty office hours, and peer mentors (STEM Navigators) intentionally facilitate skill development and a positive learning environment for our students, which welcomes students and supports a sense of belonging among students at VC, especially Latine students and all students of color. In this post-pandemic era, college students need more spaces and places to meet, study, and engage one other in learning. VC's STEM Harbor is a model for this kind of community building that we need on the campus for our students.

Commendations:

1. Student who identifies as Hispanic participate in STEM Harbor at a high rate – well done creating a space for their participation!
2. Overall, students who experience STEM Harbor rate it as being a service that provides a nurturing and engaging environment. In fact, 92% of the participants stated that SH supported them in their academic success / skills development, and 96% described SH as promoting a positive learning environment.
3. The activities of STEM Harbor positively and intentionally support the colleges' HSI identity by supporting culturally relevant support and opportunities for our students.

Ventura College will be a beacon of learning — a source of inspiration and guidance — for our students and community.

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4. The supportive, culturally informed, and affirming STEM Harbor team ensures equitable academic, transfer, and career outcomes for our students.

Recommendations:

1. Consider exploring methods to encourage men to participate in STEM Harbor. While SH is frequented a great deal by women students, men are disproportionately less likely to engage in SH.
2. Mondays and Wednesdays are visited by students significantly more than Tuesdays and Thursdays. Consider exploring what would draw students in on all days of the week.
3. Assess long-term findings to support STEM Harbor after project SAIL funding ends in 2027.

CPC's overall recommendation is **Strengthen the Program**, to which I concur. Thank you again for your dedicated work in improving outcomes for our students.

Sincerely,



Kimberly Hoffmans, R.N., Ed.D.
President
Ventura College

cc: Dr. Aaron Jones, Dean of Student Learning
Dr. Jennifer Kalfsbeek-Goetz, Vice President of Academic Affairs

Default Report

CPC Program Review Feedback Form - STEM Harbor

November 13, 2023 10:30 AM PST

Q2 - What is this program doing well?

What is this program doing well?

The program offers great resources for STEM students.

Increasing student engagement in STEM. Meeting the initial goals under the grant and program outline.

Providing a needed service to an underprivileged population.

Providing a sense of comfort and inclusion to students using the services.

Serving the needs of STEM students

With the re-launch of STEM Harbor and end of Covid, it appears numbers are increasing regarding usage.

STEM Harbor consistently helps and provides students with resources like studying spaces, help with understanding challenging subjects, and providing a home for our STEM Students alongside MESA.

Q3 - What could this program improve upon?

What could this program improve upon?

Re-evaluate the SUO statements that can measure the success of the program.

Secure future grant funding to create a sustainable, long term program. Find better ways to actively include CTE programs that are very much STEM focused/aligned (Manufacturing, Architecture, Water Sci, Ag, etc...). Remaining goals are very ambitious (new lab classroom, etc), not sure enough time left in grant to achieve remaining larger goals.

Need to determine a more consistent funding source.

Creating SUOs that document how positive environments correlate to successful completion of courses, certificates, degrees, and choosing STEM careers.

Increase participation, particularly among male students.

Seek out/ask for funding to institutionalize program. I think this is a threat to the program and this is an area that speaks to the need to strengthen the program.

STEM Harbor could enhance its impact by garnering increased support from faculty and staff, encouraging higher engagement and utilization of its services by students. Exploring partnerships with entities such as VC Marketing, ASVC, and various STEM student clubs like Womxn In Stem, Engineering Society, SHPE, and SACNAS, could further amplify their outreach and accessibility.

Q6 - How well do the program's objectives align with the VC Educational Master Plan?

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Very well align.

Well

Aligned.

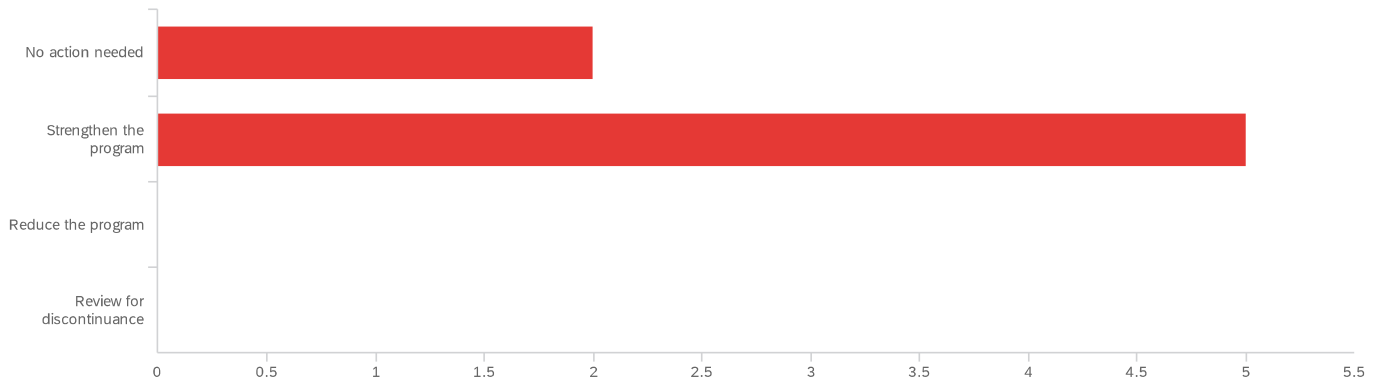
They align.

Very well.

Focus is on transfer and completion.

STEM Harbor significantly provides specialized support for historically marginalized students in STEM fields, promoting equity and access through targeted resources, while simultaneously fostering active engagement via collaborative study sessions and faculty interactions, and encouraging persistence by offering continuous support, positive environments, and mentorship to navigate challenges, enabling students to pursue successful and lasting careers in STEM.

Q8 - I recommend the following course of action for this program:



#	Field	Choice Count
1	No action needed	28.57% 2
2	Strengthen the program	71.43% 5
3	Reduce the program	0.00% 0
4	Review for discontinuance	0.00% 0

7

Showing rows 1 - 5 of 5

End of Report