

0525514 Ellene Tratras Contis, Joanne Caniglia and Kathleen Stacey, Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti MI, **What's Happening in CSIE?**

The CSIE (Creative Scientific Inquiry Experience) Program at Eastern Michigan University is involved in retaining and increasing the number of STEM graduates. Our focus is an innovative approach that includes faculty professional development, student connectedness to the sciences and mathematics through academic service-learning, and curricular reform. CSIE faculty fellows are energizing their teaching through creative development of multi-course and stand-alone interdisciplinary CSIE experiences, a cluster of two or three science and/or mathematics courses anchored by a one-credit CSIE seminar. CSIEs help students make connections between core courses and with faculty, peers, and community partners. The following numbers highlight CSIE successes to date.¹

- 28 faculty members trained as CSIE Faculty Fellows.
- 8 academic departments and three colleges involved.
- 10 special topics CSIE Seminar courses developed with 6 implemented to date.
- 18 core courses restructured to show interdisciplinary connections.
- 146 students enrolled in CSIE clusters ~7% of declared STEM majors.
- 30 students reenrolled in second- and third-term CSIE experiences.
- 3 Undergraduate Symposium scholars (from 1st semester BIOL and CHEM).
- 4 academic service-learning community partners: *Meals on Wheels*, *Huron River Watershed Council*, *Michigan Science Olympiad*, and the *Washtenaw County Conservation District*.
- 10 regional, national, and international scholarly presentations and/or peer reviewed publications by CSIE Faculty Fellows about CSIE innovations.

The CSIE program has invested in recruitment strategies, which include:

- Recruiting students by CSIE Faculty Fellows from feeder courses/departmental advising sessions.
- Participating in Fast Track advising planned in the early spring for incoming freshmen students.
- Sending e-postcards to current students in feeder and other STEM courses.
- Sending direct mail invitations with CSIE Program information and a personal note from STEM faculty to admitted, interested and academically prepared first-year students.

Our retention efforts include:

- Requiring our students to make individual appointments with STEM faculty advisors, who advise and map out the best sequence of STEM and other University courses.
- Strongly recommending mathematics competencies in the first-year course progression.
- Clustering complimentary and interdependent courses.
- Scheduling midday STEM course clusters.
- Providing a Books-on-Loan Program.
- Developing and implementing engaging projects/activities in the course clusters.
- Embedding the philosophy of Academic Service-Learning into the STEM course cluster curriculum.

In the 2008 academic year, the CSIE program is expanding opportunities to the humanities to support STEM students' progress towards graduation. For more information go online to www.emich.edu/csie.

¹ Data as of January 8, 2008. Includes four academic terms: FA2006, WI2007, FA2007 and WI2008.