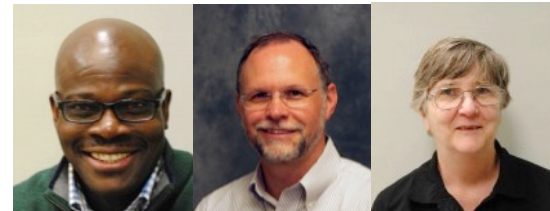# National Science Foundation S-STEM Award #1833781

- S-STEM: Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
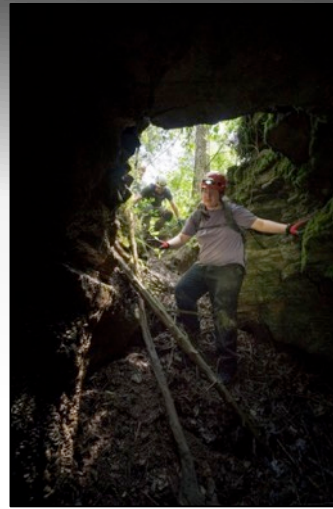
PI – Josephine Rodriguez (Biology)
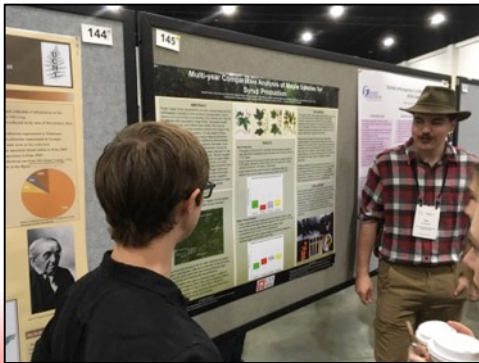
Co-PIs   Floyd Beckford (Chemistry)
         Bruce Cahoon (Biology)
         Margie Tucker (Biochemistry)

The largest NSF award to UVA-Wise
Highly competitive program: 500 proposals ~75 awards

Inspiration: Talented UVA-Wise students who face obstacles to completing degrees in STEM fields due to their socio-economic status.

$650,000.00 grant
Funding Period: August 2019 – July 2024

Pie chart legend labels: Student Research, Conference Travel, GRE fees, External Evaluator, Internship Support, Indirect Costs (F&A), PI compensation, Scholarships $410,000.00

- 12 first years may receive $5000.00 per year for four years

- 13 transfer students may receive $5000.00 per year for 2 ½ years

- 2 cohorts
  - 2019-2023
  - 2020-2024

The Award was Made to Test The Efficacy of Six Approaches to Retaining Financially Needy Students in STEM Fields and Prepare Them for Graduate School or the Work Force

1) Freshmen and Transfer Success Coaching
2) General Chemistry Coaching
3) Close Faculty Mentoring
4) Writing in the Natural Sciences
5) Research Experiences
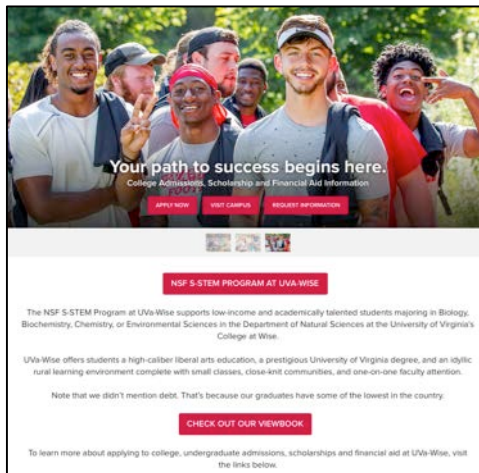6) STEM-Based Industry Summer Internship Program

National Science Foundation is "betting" on us

Establishing a new track record of managing a federally funded project of this type or size.

National Science Foundation is "betting" on us

Challenges

- Enrollment, Enrollment, Enrollment
  - Find and attract talented (financially needy) students
- Recruitment (Now – April)
  - Josephine Rodriguez and the office of admissions and financial aid
    - Visiting area high schools, superintendents, and tour groups
    - Visiting area community colleges
    - Distributing flyers
    - Admitted students receive a letter from Josephine
    - Web presence
- Low enrollment threatens many aspects of successfully implementing a program like this
  - Administrative assistants and facilities maintenance

National Science Foundation is "betting" on us

Potential Rewards

- Learn what works best to help our students
- We received 'Track 1' funding
- If we do a good job we could extend the program with 'Track 2' funding = more money and more scholarships