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

The Northern Marianas College Hatas 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 hatas, 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 research, faculty-guided and independent research, and internships, 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

Applications Now Open!

Application

Interested students should submit an application for entrance into the Northern Marianas College Hatas STEM Scholars Program by October 1, 2021. For more information, please contact Velma C. De Leon Guerrero.

NMC Hatas Learning Community

For more information, please contact

Velma C. De Leon Guerrero
velma.deleonguerrero@marianas.edu
670-237-6760
Building K Room K-18

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

Dr. Virendra Verma, Ph.D
Ph.D. Scientist (Horticulture/Crop), NMC CREDS

Dr. Willson Gaul, Ph.D
Associate Professor of Science, NMC Faculty

Kelsey McGeven
M.S. Marine Biology, Scientist, Johnston-Navy Marine Sciences

Michael C. Tenorio
Fisheries Supervisor, Department of Lands and Natural Resources (DLNR) DECRM

IOA-LSAMP Personnel

Frankie Elipito, MBA
IOA-LSAMP Governing Board Member, NMC Vice President

Velma C. DeLeon Guerrero, M.Ed
Department Chair, IOA Principal Investigator

Dr. Willson Gaul, Ph.D
Associate Professor of Science, NMC Faculty

Dr. Joe Genz
Assistant Professor of Anthropology, IOA Project Director, UH Hilo

Axel Detfingen
Project Manager, UH Hilo