

The North Star STEM Alliance

The Minnesota Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation

Celebrating 16 years of LS-NSSA



About the Louis Stokes North Star STEM Alliance (LS-NSSA)

LS-NSSA was established in 2007 and is funded by the National Science Foundation and 3M. LS-NSSA works to encourage and support students who are underrepresented in STEM by providing mentoring, paid research opportunities, professional development, travel funding, and internships. We focus on three main goals: 1) Increase the number of underrepresented minority (URM) STEM bachelor's degrees, 2) Create deeper Alliance-wide collaborations to improve students' pathways through all stages of transfer from community colleges to four-year institutions; and 3) Foster institutional change toward greater diversity and inclusion on all Alliance campuses. Our work supports the National Science Foundation's strategic goal to "cultivate a world-class, broadly inclusive science and engineering workforce, and expand the scientific literacy of all citizens."



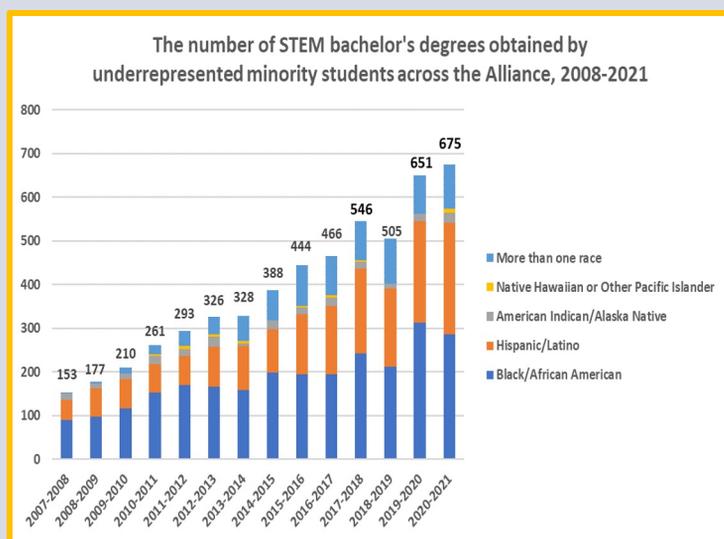
Louis Stokes North Star STEM Alliance (LS-NSSA) Partners

Institutions of Higher Education

Augsburg University
Bemidji State University
Carleton College
Century College
Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College
Leech Lake Tribal College
Metropolitan State University
Minneapolis Community & Technical College
Minnesota State University, Mankato
St. Cloud State University
St. Olaf College
Saint Paul College
University of Minnesota Duluth
University of Minnesota Morris
University of Minnesota Twin Cities
University of Minnesota Rochester

Community Partners

Minnesota Education Equity Partnership
Minnesota Technology Association
Science Museum of Minnesota

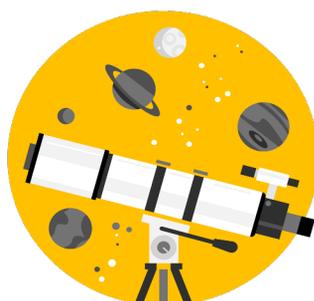


Between 2008-2021, LS-NSSA:

Engaged **4,682** underrepresented minority (URM) direct participants.

Engaged about **200** faculty and staff annually to support students.

Connected almost **800** URM students with undergraduate research opportunities

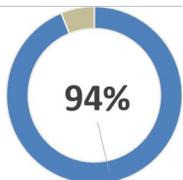


Direct participants' average GPA kept rising and reached **3.20** in 2021.

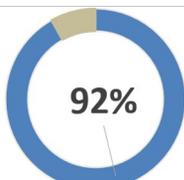
Financially supported over **1,400** student scholars to attend local, regional, and national academic conferences.

The percentage of participants who agreed that LS-NSSA provided adequate opportunities in:

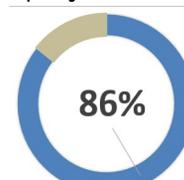
STEM career information



Connection to academic support

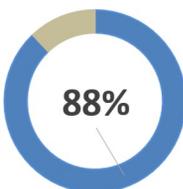


STEM research projects

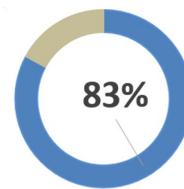


The percentage of participants who perceived that LS-NSSA was **moderately/very important** to their:

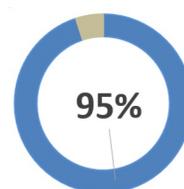
Academic success



Confidence in learning



Career aspiration



92% of participants who felt they belonged in STEM indicated that this is due to their participation in the LS-NSSA:

"I'm surrounded by not just other URM groups, but a larger majority of people who come from more privileged backgrounds, and sometimes that can be really intimidating. LS-NSSA experience was not like that. **I felt assured and supported every single time when I came in every single day for this research. I feel like for once in a long, long time, I belong.**"

"Wondering whether you should be where you are in your academic career is something I have experienced, especially as a transfer student, **when I do not always see myself reflected in my peers or professors. Participating in this event definitely contributed to my feelings of belonging.**"

"The program is really empowering. Everyone is really passionate about what they're doing. This feeling of empowerment beyond - moves me to what I'm doing right now. **It gives me hope that a lot of persons of color like me are interested in STEM. It allows students of color to explore STEM and gain research experience.**"

Data comes from the Alliance-wide 2022 End-of-Year Survey



LS-NSSA has improved URM participants **first-year persistence rate to 96%**, making them **more advantageous than non-participant underrepresented minority STEM students, and on par with White and Asian STEM students.**

According to the academic information of participants from the University of Minnesota.



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