Project Information

Name of Project: Science Transfer Initiative

Type of Project (e.g., Professional Development): Student Enrollment, Retention & Academic Success

Project Manager:

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PreK-16 Regional STEM Network affiliation (check one):

- [ ] Berkshire
- [ ] Central
- [ ] Metro West
- [ ] Northeast
- [x] Pioneer Valley
- [ ] Southeastern
- [ ] Boston (under development)

Description of Project:

Massasoit Community College’s Science Transfer Initiative has a goal of increasing enrollment, retention, diversity, and access—including the improvement of outcomes for students enrolled in Massasoit’s Liberal Arts Transfer Science (LATS) option, which is designed primarily for those students who plan to transfer to four-year liberal arts baccalaureate degree institutions and who wish to major in the sciences, engineering, pre-med, or other advanced medical fields. The principle goal is to prepare students for successful transfer to four-year institutions as science majors by providing early undergraduate research opportunities, enhanced advising, exposure to science career paths, and access to financial aid. It has been demonstrated that colleges are better able to retain students in the sciences when they provide early research experiences that expose students to hands-on experiences that can help prepare them for upper-level courses upon transfer. Equally important in encouraging and retaining students in the STEM fields are mentors who can provide academic and career advice. This program leads to improved performance and an increased likelihood of science students achieving success at Massasoit and continuing their studies at a four-year institution.