

STEM STARTER ACADEMY

Statewide

STEM Starter Academy is a state-funded initiative to inform, engage, recruit, retain, and graduate significantly more students in STEM at all 15 community colleges.

Program Goals:

1. To graduate more community college students with STEM degrees and certificates, prepared to enter the workforce or transfer to a four-year institution.
2. To recruit more students into the STEM pipeline at the community colleges.

For More Information:

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MASSACHUSETTS
Department of
Higher Education

www.mass.edu/stem

At Berkshire Community College

Making Connections...Creating Opportunities



MAKING CONNECTIONS TO LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

- High school faculty at all area high schools serving as liaisons to SSA
- 5 on-campus activities yearly promoting BCC and SSA
- SSA recruitment activities at local high schools
- Supported Dual Enrollment
- Summer High School STEM Academy for 2016
- Partnership with Flying Cloud to promote STEM for girls

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR POST-BCC

- 4-part career series for SSA students
- Opportunities for job shadows, industry mentors and internships
- Career Counselor and Transfer Counselor access

THE DATA SHOW THAT...

BCC SSA students who entered college in the fall of 2015 were connected and successful.

- 100% returned for the spring semester as compared to 74.4% of the total freshman population
- 87% are majoring in a STEM field
- 94 % were full time
- 100% of those surveyed are highly satisfied with their SSA program
- 90% got involved on campus or in the community

MAKING CONNECTIONS TO BCC

- Strong summer success program
- Equally strong fall support program
- 2nd year STEM students serve as mentors to 1st year students
- Monthly cohort meetings
- Student space
- Monthly STEM advising
- Additional support program for struggling students
- Academic and financial support

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR STEM ENGAGEMENT

- Service Learning component
- STEM field trips and seminars
- STEM forums
- Industry speakers
- STEM Explore program during summer

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Statewide

Key highlights from the first two years of the statewide STEM Starter Academy program:

More than **10,000 students**
directly participated

Another **20,000 students**
participated in recruitment events
and information sessions

SSA population reflects the overall demographics
of the community colleges:

12% African American

14% Latino/a

51% Female

SSA students are more likely to
enroll full time
compared to general community college students

75% of SSA students
who completed developmental math in summer 2015
enrolled in college-level math in fall 2015

70% of
degrees & certificates
earned by SSA students are in STEM