



Community College Student Success: Outcomes from a Student Summer Research Program

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What do we do at RECCS?

The Research Experience for Community College Students (RECCS) is a 9-week summer research program in geoscience for Colorado community college students. Ten RECCS students receive a weekly stipend to conduct field- or lab-based independent research alongside a team of scientists. Students learn basic research, writing, and communication skills, and present their research at a local student science symposium.

[RECCS] exposed me to the mysterious world of graduate school unknown to many first generation college students [such] as myself. –Student A

Without the RECCS program I would not have met my mentor... and I would not have transferred to CU Boulder. – Student B

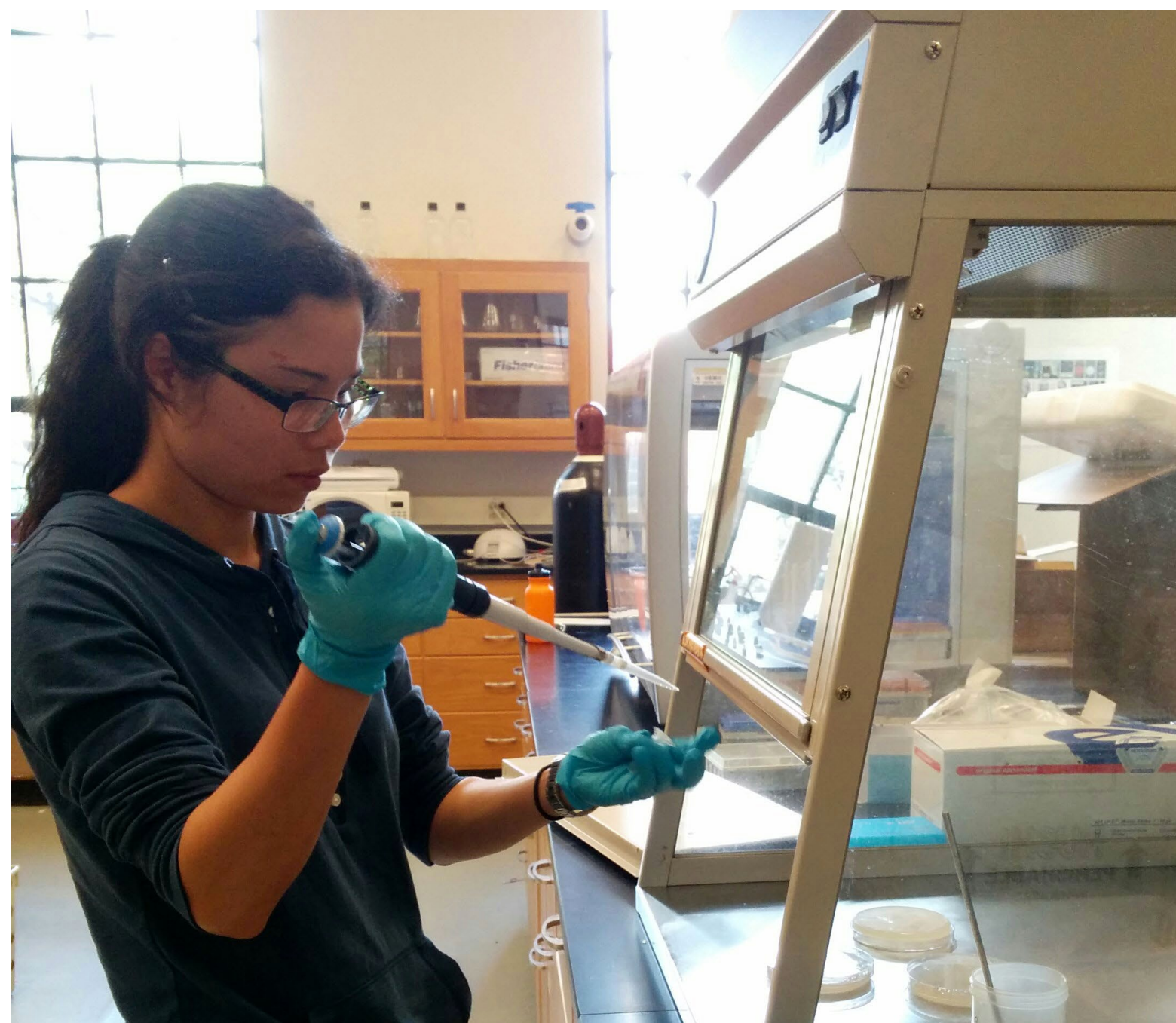
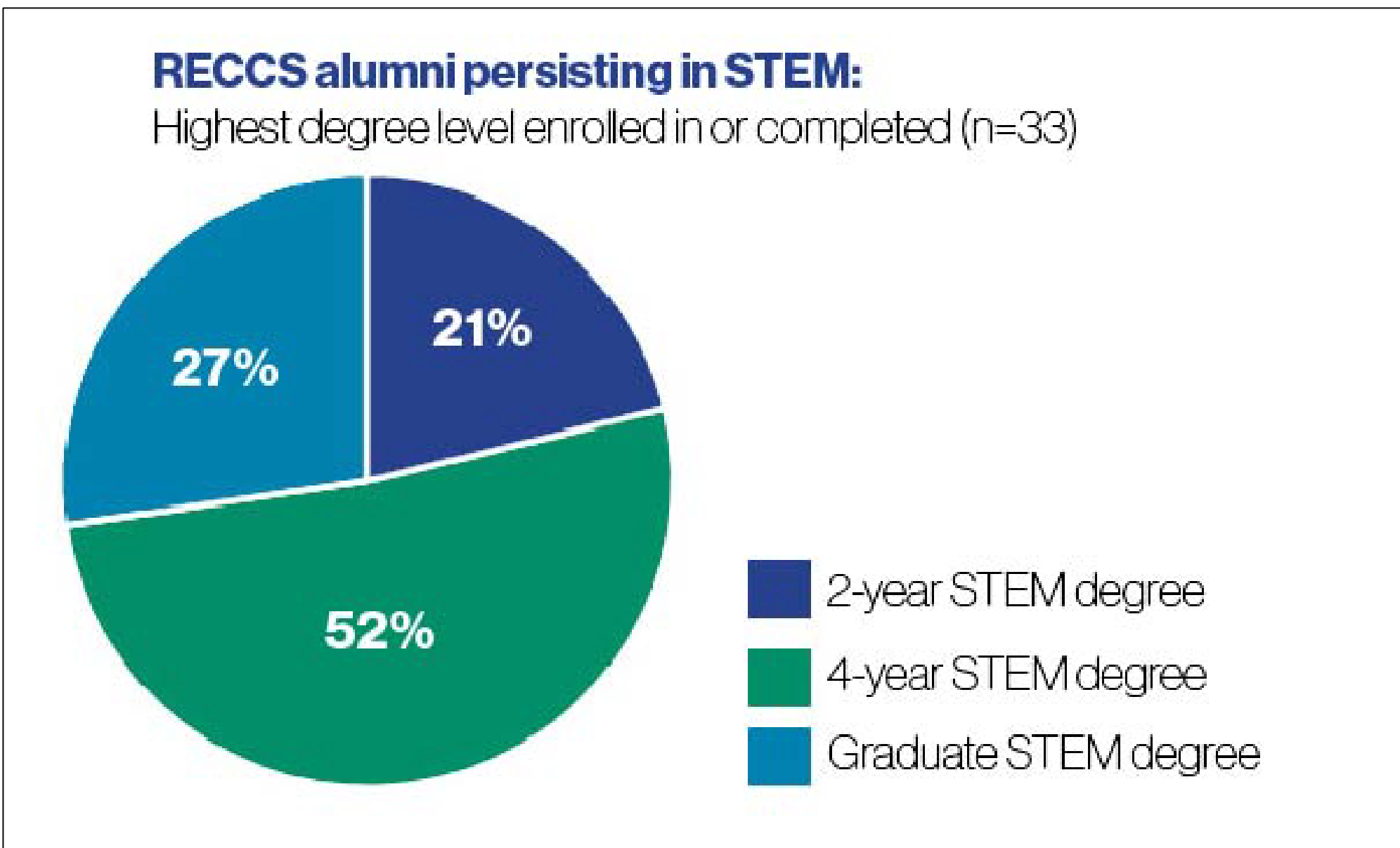
[Participating in RECCS] further affirmed my goals of becoming a scientist. Graduate school wasn't on my radar before this program but now I would consider it my Plan A. – Student C

Why RECCS?

Colorado is home to more than 100,000 community college students at 15 institutions. These institutions often serve students traditionally underrepresented in STEM, such as racially or ethnically diverse groups, as well as first-generation college attendees. Undergraduates who participate in a research experience are more likely to pursue additional research experiences or to enroll in graduate school than those who don't have this opportunity. The goal of RECCS is to give community college students an authentic research experience so they can gain the confidence to transition to a four-year program and beyond. The program also serves to develop a more diverse geoscience workforce.

Demonstrated Outcomes

A total of 62 students have completed the program thus far. RECCS evaluation shows that students made gains in learning, confidence, and motivation for a STEM career. Students also reported developing an identity as a scientist and gaining valuable insight into the research process. All students agree or strongly agree that the RECCS experience was beneficial for their resume and prepared them for study at a 4-year college. Research mentors say that 75 percent of the mentees were above average as students.



RECCS
applicant
demographics



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