Factors Promoting Retention and Success among Computer Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Undergraduates: Findings and Reflections from Two Research Projects

The National Science Foundation’s Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (S-STEM) Program seeks to enable low-income students with demonstrated academic ability or potential to pursue careers in STEM fields, while also contributing new knowledge about curricular and co-curricular activities that promote these students’ retention and success. Dr. Brobst has led the educational research components of two S-STEM projects: one focused on Computer Science and Mathematics and the other on Engineering.

In this presentation, he will discuss ways in which the structures embedded within these projects have effectively supported undergraduate students’ development in terms of self-efficacy, STEM identity, and sense of belonging, even as the COVID-19 pandemic has posed a host of challenges to students and project faculty alike.

April 13, 2022
1:25–2:25 pm (EST)
Optional discussion to follow
Online through Zoom

About the Speaker

Joseph Brobst, Ed.D. is a Research Assistant Professor in the Center for Educational Partnerships at Old Dominion University. Formerly a high school biology teacher, he is now an educational research and program evaluation specialist with experience working on a wide range of projects sponsored by organizations including the National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health, Office of Naval Research, U.S. Department of Education, and Corporation for National and Community Service. His areas of interest and expertise include broadening participation in STEM higher education, K-12 STEM teacher professional development, and pre-service teacher preparation in STEM. He holds a bachelor of science in biological sciences, master of arts in education, and doctor of education, all from the University of Delaware.

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