

WVU-First2 Institutional Team Change Work: Successes and Challenges

Fall 2024 Updates



Successes/Highlights from Change Ideas 2023-2024

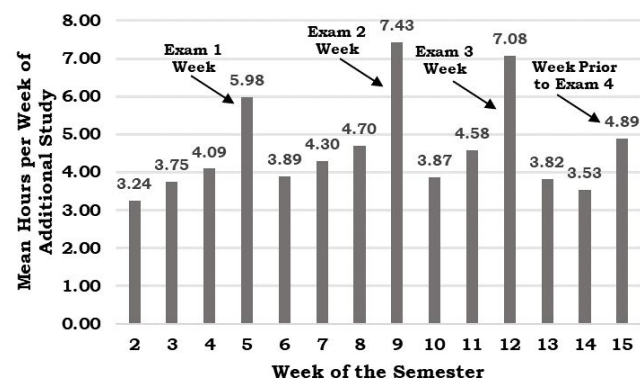
Scholars Funded – A total of 23 distinct WVU STEM students were funded as scholars to engage in undergraduate research, leadership, and change work.

Professor Panel – Held on March 20, 2024. Six (6) instructor panelists. Over 100 students attended. Several instructors offered extra credit for attendance. Panelists discussed topics that URP students often face in isolation.

Gen Chem 1 Embedded Students – 568 distinct students submitted 3,500+ weekly metacognitive reports over 14 weeks during Fall 2023. Preliminary data indicates the following class GPAs: Reporters = 3.0; Non-reporters = 2.2.

Listserv – In Fall 2023, twelve (12) biweekly opportunity emails were sent to 90+ WVU-First2 funded students. Students read over about 9 emails, found 4-5 items of interest, and acted on 1-2 opportunities.

First2 at State Legislature – Two WVU-First2 funded students were trained to talk with state legislators and visited legislator offices in spring 2024 with a First2 cohort of students and staff. They were involved in legislation to modify the statewide Promise Scholarship.



Challenges in 2023-2024

Academic Transformation – Faculty/staff hesitancy and uncertainty to committing time to First2 as their units were reviewed using institutional metrics that did not capture the totality of their efforts.

Institutional Budget Woes and Faculty Departures – Frozen budgets did not allow faculty to access institutional funding. Faculty departures meant more work (teaching and service) for those remaining.

Assistance from Scholars – Faculty and staff involved with the WVU-First2 IT recognized the need for student assistance with change work. WVU has existing programming to support students in research. The 2024 submission was modified to involve funded scholars directly in change work as mentored by a dedicated faculty/staff member from the IT.

First2 Needs – Continue to increase for students and faculty/staff IT members. One requirement is removed but then another one is added. Suggest reducing administrative cost to faculty/staff/funded scholars to allow more time for change work.



Fall 2024 Listserv PDSA - Biweekly Opportunity Emails

Change Idea – Connect STEM students to faculty/staff. Send frequent emails with opportunities, events, and activities (institutional, *First2* and beyond) of potential interest to STEM majors.

Thus far, we have completed:

- Draft PDSA (Plan and Do)
- Modification of post-survey questions
- Sent five (5) biweekly opportunity emails on 9/4, 9/18, 10/2, 10/16, and 10/30 to 90+ students

What we need to do:

- PDSA coaching & IRB approval for survey
- Expand listserv to include emails of all underrepresented STEM majors
- Access and send emails using MailChimp

“I go through them each time and have actually found multiple programs through these emails!”

“The opportunities in these emails are great for any STEM student looking to get the most out of their degree.”



Organizers: Ty Landis (Student Director) and Michelle Richards-Babb (WVU faculty IT member).

STEM Professor Panel PDSA – Get to know STEM Instructors

Change Idea – connect STEM students to instructors of FR and SO STEM classes to foster belongingness in STEM students.

PDSA Progress – Repeat PDSA created and coaching in progress.

Spring 2024 panelists discussed

- ✓ imposter syndrome
- ✓ STEM belongingness
- ✓ work-life balance
- ✓ failure
- ✓ overcoming challenges
- ✓ rebounding from low grades
- ✓ time management
- ✓ trauma bonding

Five (5) Instructor Panelists for Oct 28!

- Vicki Sealey (Math & Data Sciences)
- Katrina Stewart (Biology)
- Tobi Odeleye (Chemistry)
- Dave Mersing (Chemistry)
- Lizzie Santiago (Engineering)



STEM Professor Panel

October 28th in Brooks Hall

Room 202 5:00-6:30pm

Get to know your professors with a Q&A!
Light refreshments will be provided.

All are welcome!



Organizers: Sydney Kudlak (Student Assistant Director) and Lori Ogden (WVU faculty IT member)

Other Planned Change Ideas

- **Learning Assistants in General Chemistry 1** (Becky Chen, EB Gruchacz, Kyle Struble, Cassandra Dellone and Tobi Odeleye)
- **Understanding Barriers to Participating in Undergraduate Research** (Ray King and Cinthia Pacheco)
- **Research on Effects of PDSAs on STEM Persistence** (Ella Moats and Marjorie Darrah)
- **Broadened Use of Institutional Resources** (Ray King, Cinthia Pacheco, and Michelle Paden)
- **Enhancing Student Voices** (Ty Landis and Michelle Richards-Babb)
- **Science Policy** (Stephanie Sarfo and Tobi Odeleye)
- **Connecting STEM Faculty (Academia) to STEM Teachers (8-12)** (Griffin Niamatali and Michelle Richards-Babb)
- **Collaboration on Embedded Students in Math 126** (Lori Ogden and Michelle Richards-Babb)

