URI's Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program: Recruitment Efforts Year 1

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The University of Rhode Island is the first institution of higher education in Rhode Island to be awarded a National Science Foundation Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Award. URI’s Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program seeks to increase the overall number, diversity, and percentage of our teacher education candidates with STEM backgrounds. We are actively recruiting undergraduate STEM majors and STEM professionals who might otherwise not have considered a career in K-12 teaching. We will support them through their induction years in teaching.

Over the next 5 years, we will recruit and support a total of 40 undergraduate STEM majors and 5 STEM professionals to teach elementary, middle, and high school students in high-need districts. Scholarships of $10,000 each will support 40 juniors and seniors over the 5 years of the grant. One-year stipends for $40,000 are offered to five STEM professional seeking teacher certification. The program will also support and mentor Scholars during the first 3 years of teaching in high-need school districts. School district superintendents from Rhode Island urban cities, including Central Falls, Newport, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket, support this program.

In addition, 50 freshman and sophomores are afforded paid 10-week summer internships in informal STEM education areas. Internship sites include Providence Boys and Girls Clubs, Roger Williams Park, Rhode Island Museum of Science and Art, Rhode Island Audubon Society, and Save the Bay, as well as other non-Rhode Island sites.
A range of recruitment strategies are being used, including a new website, flyers, poster, presentations, and news releases. Internships are coordinated through URI’s Experiential Learning and Community Engagement office. Results of our recruitment efforts will be shared.