Beyond Broader Engagement at SC

Beyond Broader Engagement at SC (BeBE-SC) leverages the success of the Broader Engagement (BE) program of the Supercomputing Conferences (SC), its continued growth and participant feedback. We know from research and our own evaluations that attending conferences, participating in research, and creating professional networks are key to individuals (particularly those from under-represented groups) becoming and feeling part of the professional, research society.

The primary objective of the SC BE program is to broaden the participation and increase the engagement in the field of high performance computing (HPC) by individuals who have been traditionally underrepresented. These individuals include undergraduate and graduate students, faculty and professionals who desire to learn about the workforce opportunities in and uses of HPC. This includes, but is not limited to, such computing topics as networking, storage and analysis, and scientific application in areas of computational science. The three year project is designed to take full advantage of the SC programs in 2010 and 2011 while providing evaluation of the project and support for BE participants through SC2012.

The specific goals of this project are to:

- Increase the number of individual BE participants at SC conferences,
- Increase the professional networks of BE participants via BPC Alliances and mentoring,
- Develop nascent researchers and leaders from under-represented groups in the leadership of SC, HPC communities.

This effort evaluates students' perceptions of BeBE, their developing professional networks, and educational/professional outcomes following participation in the program from 2010 to 2012. The evaluation effort will focus on the networks and support (e.g. involvement in other BPC projects) that BE participants are involved with before, during and after attending the SC BE program.

Participation in SC conferences

The Broader Engagement Program supports networking opportunities and events throughout the SC conference. This project supports participation grants to cover or defray the cost of conference expenses (travel, hotel, meals and conference registration). Participation grants are given to individuals (students, faculty, researchers and industry professionals) who apply to the program and demonstrate a compelling statement of interest, aspirations, and benefits of attendance. Preference will be given to individuals who have been selected as conference presenters, student volunteers, panel organizers, participants who are deepening their relationship to the research and HPC community or those who are attending the conference for the first time.

Leadership Development

Alumni of the SC BE programs are often poised to step into leadership positions in organizing programs and activities within SC. These are typically volunteer positions that are supported financially by the organizations of the volunteers. The relationships built in the course of working on such committees are invaluable for careers in HPC. This work supports and evaluates participation of individuals from under-represented groups on SC committees and the development of young leadership in the international computing conference.

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