Uplift: a STEM re search scholarship for underprivileged undergraduates at CU

PIs: Edward Chuo ng (Assistant professor, MCDB), Lee Niswander (Chair, MCDB)

Abstract

Undergraduate research experiences represent pivotal first steps into research careers, but students

from underreprese nted groups face financial and cultural barriers to a ccessing these experi ences.

We are requesting funds to suppo rt “Up lift”, a research internship for underrepresented students.

Uplift scholars are supported by a $3,000 stipend to conduct a 1.5 semester internship in a host

STEM lab at CU. The program includes identity

-based mentorship, professional development

workshops, and community building. The program prepares students to apply for university

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Program Development

In 2021, the Uplift program received a 2
-year $150,000 pilot grant from the Packard Foundation, with
the PIs being three current Packard fellows in A&S: Edward Chuong (MCDB), Ann
-Marie Madigan
(APS), Jingchun Li (EBIO). The seed grant provided $75,000/year for two years to support 20
-25
student stipends and workshop expenses each year. In the 2021 pilot year there were 20 scholars
(selected from 60 applicants) who successfully completed the Uplift program. In the current 2022
program, there are 17 scholars (80 applicants). The Uplift program has been successful
 in
 attracting
significant interest and recent scholars have pursued STEM jobs and graduate education. However,
the Uplift program currently has no university or college support and will be forced to stop with
Packard funding ending in 2023.