



Crossing the Divide: Building Strong Two-Year/Four Year Partnerships

Louis J. Liotta, Kendra Twomey, Magdalena James-Pederson, Craig A. Almeida, Bonnie Troupe



Overall Project Objectives

Stonehill and Massasoit seek to achieve the following objectives through our STEP program:

1. By year five, attract 37 more students per year to Stonehill's science majors that require chemistry.
2. Reduce average Stonehill attrition rate in these sciences from 47% to 23%.
3. Increase science transfer track enrollments at Massasoit by 35 students.
4. Increase the number of traditionally underrepresented students in STEM degree programs at Stonehill by 24.
5. Increase the number of graduates with these majors by 20 in year five with an ultimate goal of 49 more graduates per year.

Strategies

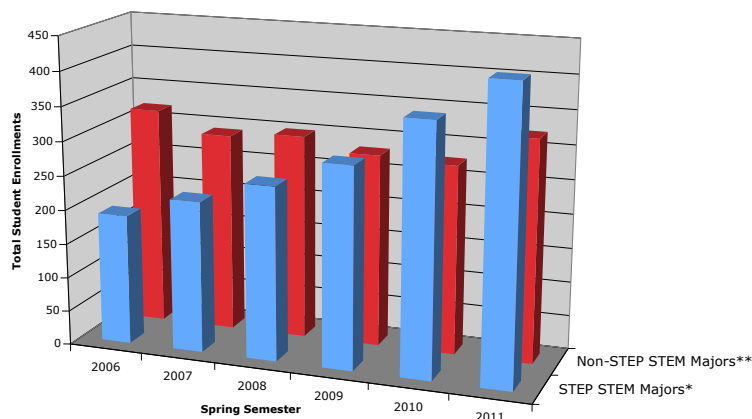
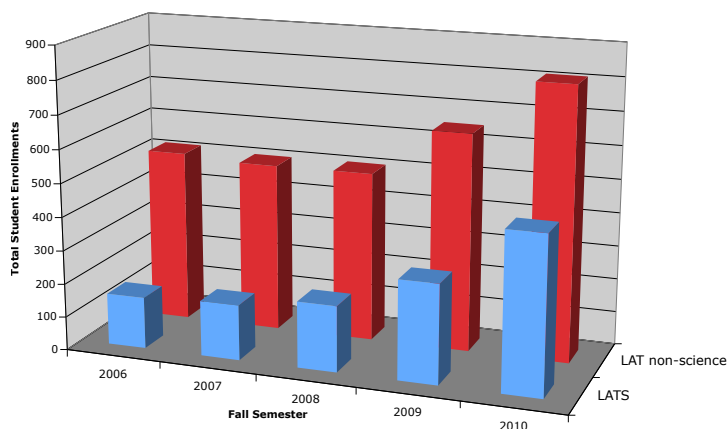
Six broad strategies were identified to achieve these objectives four involved both institutions and two involved only Stonehill:

1. Theme-Based General Chemistry I
2. Enhanced Mentoring, Tutoring and Advising
3. Early Research Experience
4. Career Exploration
5. Summer Bridge Program (only Stonehill)
6. Advanced Placement Chemistry and Biology Laboratories for local high schools (only Stonehill)

Intermediate Objectives

	Year 1		Year 2		Year 3		Year 4		Year 5	
	Proj.	Actu.	Proj.	Actu.	Proj.	Actu.	Proj.	Actu.	Proj.	Actu.
Increase in STEM-STEP grant majors	1	31	15	64	44	103	90	174	132	234
Increase in minority students	0	2	3	2	8	3	16	16	24	22
Increase in Massasoit LATS students	0	11	10	43	20	141	30	314	35	----
1 st - 2 nd year Stonehill science attrition rate	38%	30%	34%	22%	30%	29%	25%	23%	20%	----

Successes



* biochemistry, biology, chemistry, neuroscience, environmental studies, physics
 ** psychology, math, computer science



Academic Year	Total Majors	First Semester Gen. Chem.	2nd Year	3rd Year	4th Year	Graduates
05/06	190	75	51	38	42	45
06/07	221	93	53	46	38	38
07/08	254	93	75	50	44	45
08/09	293	95	83	74	48	43
09/10	364	139	86	78	72	72
10/11	424	151	120	70	74	

Challenges

1. Recruiting Students from Underrepresented Groups into the Sciences at Stonehill
2. Retaining Students from Underrepresented Groups in the Sciences at Stonehill
3. Affordability of Stonehill College for Massasoit Transfer Students
4. Physical Space and Facilities for Conducting Research at Massasoit
5. Campus Cultural Obstacles to Conducting Research (*e.g.* orders only can be placed once a month)
6. Finding Massasoit Students Who are Qualified and Interested in Performing Chemical Research
7. Time Required to Implement and Maintain Initiatives Particularly with Large Increase in Students
8. Stonehill's Culture as a Residential Campus Presents Additional Challenges to Commuter Students