December 21, 2018

Dr. Wenxiu Ma

Dear Wenxiu,

I want to express gratitude for your generous support of the Success in Science and Technology and Engagement with Role Models (SISTERS) Program at the University of California, Riverside. Your contributions help this program empower young women to pursue educational opportunities in the sciences and helps to address the gender and talent gap in the scientific community.

On behalf of the Science Ambassadors in the College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences who run this program, I am sharing an annual report on the SISTERS Program with you. This report discusses the activities of the program in the 2017-18 academic year and shares some goals for the 2018-19 programming. I hope you enjoy reading about the impact your role had on this program.

We are fortunate to have supporters like you who help us further scientific knowledge through public service. Thank you again for your continued backing of the SISTERS Program at UC Riverside!

Sincerely,

Brianna Wrightsman
Director of Development, College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences
University of California, Riverside
Annual Report For

The Success in Science and Technology and Engagement with Role Models (SISTERS) Program

2017 - 2018
Program Overview

The SISTERS (Success in Science and Technology and Engagement with Role Models) Program aims to promote the sciences to young females, encouraging them to pursue higher education and careers in STEM fields. SISTERS utilizes peer-to-peer mentoring to empower participants with self-confidence and newly attenuated skills and knowledge. This year, the SISTERS Program hosted over 15 mentoring and outreach events at the University of California, Riverside, University Heights Middle School, and other locations. During mentoring sessions, UCR Science Ambassadors and faculty members collaborated to teach participants about prominent female scientists, possible career paths in STEM, and to empower participants with the confidence and skills to achieve their educational goals. In 2017-2018, we had 44 middle school participants, 18 Science Ambassador Role Models, and 4 faculty mentors.

Left: Babcock Labs Tour hosted by Allison Mackenzie, UCR Alumna and CEO of Babcock Labs

Dr. Pam Clute presenting at the SISTERS kick-off meeting at University Heights Middle School
Survey Responses

Surveys were conducted with participants before and after the program to gauge familiarity with significant female scientists. Responses to all survey questions showed improvement at the end of the program. Below are pre- and post-program responses to two survey questions:

Give the name of a famous female scientist or mathematician:
- Pre-Program: 49% answered correctly
- Post-Program: 60% answered correctly

Can you name a famous female who is an important role-model to you?
- Pre-Program: 22% had famous female role models who were scientists or mathematicians
- Post-Program: 50% had famous female role models who were scientists or mathematicians

Budget Breakdown

**2017-2018 Actual Spending**
Supplies - $1,312
Refreshments - $550
Total: $1,862

**2018-2019 Proposed Spending**
Supplies - $2,000
Refreshments - $1,000
Year-End Banquet - $2,000
Total: $5,000

Ecology hike with Kimberly Cobb
Future Plans

Moving forward, we hope to expand the number of participants in the SISTERS Program and propose to hold an annual banquet at the end of the year to recognize the participants of this program. With this in mind, we hope to introduce year-long projects for the students to work on with the CNAS Science Ambassadors. Such an event would take place at the UCR Alumni Center and would serve as an outlet for networking and communication skills for the students. Continued funding of this program will help us meet this goal.

Special Thanks

We would like to express our sincere thanks to our supporters, as their involvement in the SISTERS Program is imperative to its success. Thank you for helping us inspire and motivate future female scientists.

Steve Clute I Allison Mackenzie I Dean Kathryn Uhrich
Dr. Hollis Woodard I Kimberly Cobb I Dr. Wenxiu Ma

2017-18 SISTERS Participants