

SMASH Impact Report 2016

Executive Summary

The underrepresentation of women, African Americans and Latinos in STEM is of significant concern given the lack of supply of professionals to keep pace with the projected job growth in STEM fields, the rapidly changing racial landscape of the nation, and the lack of access to economic mobility through participation in the fastest-growing and highest-paying sector of the U.S. economy for diverse communities.

ABOUT SMASH ACADEMY

The Summer Math and Science Honors Academy (SMASH) is a rigorous and immersive 3-year STEM education program specifically targeting low-income high school students of color. Students enroll in SMASH after completing the 9th grade and remain with the summer program for three consecutive years. For five weeks, scholars attend the SMASH program on college campuses (UC Berkeley, Davis, Los Angeles, Morehouse, and Stanford University) and participate in more than 100 hours of STEM instruction. In addition, students learn public speaking skills, college readiness, and engage in community-building activities.

“SMASH helped me develop a stronger self-confidence in my potential as a Latina and woman in the STEM field. The rigorous math and science classes allowed me to learn of my abilities for understanding and applying physics and math concepts. I am the first woman in my family to graduate with an engineering degree. Now looking back at why I chose engineering and felt very confident my decision is due to the people I met at SMASH.”

—Ingrid Verastegui, SMASH Alumna

SMASH 2016 Scholars

Total number of scholars: 258

Gender: 53% male / 47% female

Race/ethnicity:

34% African American

52% Latinx

8% Southeast Asian

6% Multiple races/Other

SMASH 2016 Summer Outcome Highlights

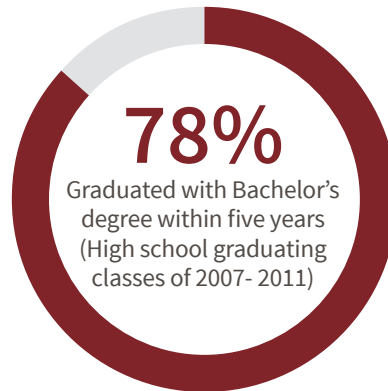
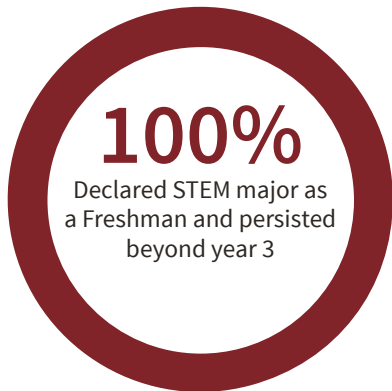
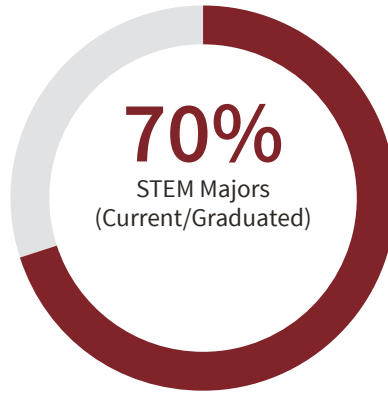
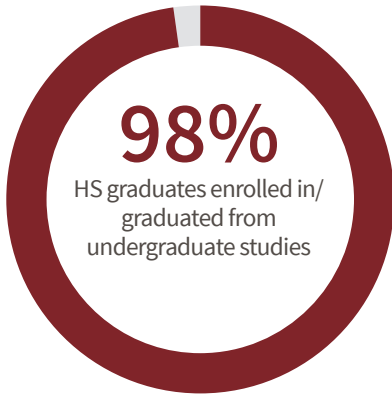
- **83%** of scholars intended to major in a STEM field of study in college.
- **89%** of scholars could imagine themselves working in a STEM career.
- Scholars gained significant growth in access to role models and developed support networks over the course of the program.
- **92%** of scholars reported that they feel capable of doing well in science.
- Scholars demonstrated statistically significant growth in their ability to successfully navigate college and financial aid application processes.



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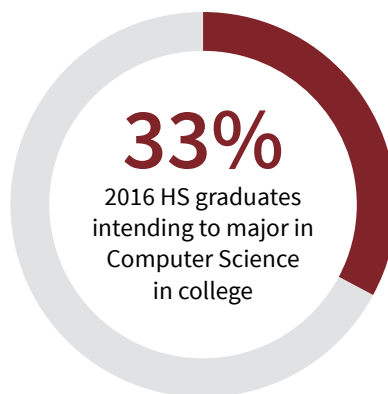
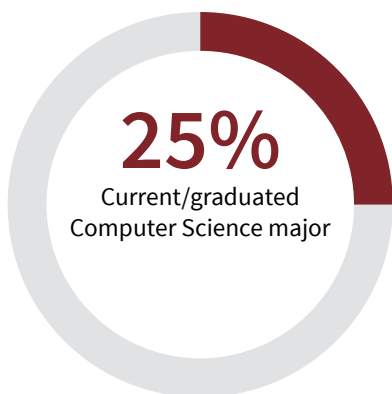
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Alumni Outcome Highlights



Computer Science Outcomes

The number of alumni declaring Computer Science majors nearly doubled between 2015 and 2016 (from 28 to 49)!



About the Level Playing Field Institute

Level Playing Field Institute is committed to eliminating the barriers faced by underrepresented people of color in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) and fostering their untapped talent for the advancement of our nation.

Learn more at: <http://www/lpfi.org>.



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