

Grant Final Report Form

Principal Investigators (PIs) are required to submit final reports within **60 days** of their EIA grant end date. A delinquent report may jeopardize or delay future Network funding. The information you provide helps us improve and justify the continuation of this grant program. The Network may also contact PIs for longer-term impact reporting and may request permission to use elements of these reports in Network activities (Conference sessions, Academy sessions, etc.) and communication both within the CSU system and to external stake-holders.

Summary Grant Information	
Grant Title:	Residential Early Start/Summer Bridge Program
PI Name:	Martin Castillo
PI Campus:	Cal State East Bay
Grant Start Date (month/YYYY):	June 2022
Grant End Date (month/YYYY):	June 2023
Final Report Submission Date:	July 2023

Major Outcomes

1. Summarize your project's outcomes against the original goals proposed for advancing equitable student learning, engagement, progression, and completion.

Our main goal was to incorporate a component of co-curricular support into the pre-existing “early start” academic component. We were pleasantly surprised by the meaningful connections that the students made during the program, particularly outside of the classroom setting. Throughout the following year (the first year of college for the participants), we often saw them supporting each other in various on-campus settings. The supportive network also contributed to a higher retention rate among this group of students when compared to their peers who did not participate in the program.

2. Comment on additional outcomes not directly associated with the project (e.g., partnerships formed, additional funding support gained).

The success of the original “STEP” program led to a new initiative we call Summer Rise. It was a more intentionally integrated model between curricular and co-curricular onboarding for incoming first-year students. We secured a grant from the CSU Chancellor's Office which allowed us to expand the scope of the program. We are now working to institutionalize the cost of the program.

3. Specify any unanticipated project developments (i.e., unanticipated barriers or unexpected wins)

Because we got a late start with advertising this opportunity, we were challenged to get as many participants as we anticipated; however, it allowed us to experiment with a few strategies with a smaller group to ensure it will work in future years with larger groups. We also did not realize how connected these students would be with one another. The fact that they created a support group for themselves was amazing to witness.

4. If applicable, comment on any longer-term outcomes you anticipate from your Equity in Action Grant-funded project. Also please estimate anticipated achievement dates (month and year).

Because this funding was utilized in summer 2022, we were able to incorporate lessons learned into the version of the program that we offered during summer 2023. We were able to triple the number of participants and the retention rates have been even stronger than the first year.

Assessment and Communication

5. Describe efforts to communicate and disseminate project outcomes within your campus.

We used the retention rates from the summer 2022 program participants to expand the program offerings during summer 2023. We will continue to utilize subsequent data years to help continue to secure funding to ensure the program is maintained for future years.

Assessment and Communication

6. Provide a summary of your assessment activities and results, where available.

Although our target was to bring in 100 students (and we registered interest from 120+), our final count was 81 students who completed the 2 week residential program. **We are now able to report that 75 (or 92.6%) of these students continued into the spring term compared to the 79% average for their counterparts who did not complete the Summer Rise program.** We are excited to track their retention into their 2nd year with us.

Lessons Learned

7. As you reflect on the strategies and activities implemented during this grant, which were successful?

The most successful strategy was to supplement the classroom support that had been offered in previous years with co-curricular support and networking opportunities. Helping incoming students find strong connections to the campus helped to retain them at higher rates than previous years.

8. By comparison, what strategies and activities did you find were unsuccessful?

We did not collaborate as well with the staff members coordinating the academic support program. We rectified that the following summer (Summer 2023).

9. Given your experience with the Equity in Action Grant Program, what changes would you recommend to better support you toward your goals?

For initiatives seeking funding for a summer term, it would be helpful to know that we have the funding as early as possible to allow us to begin marketing the program before students make other commitments.

10. What can the CSU Student Success Network do to help your campus in its efforts to identify, understand, and disrupt inequities in our system?

Continue offering support (financial and otherwise) to help create a structure that can be institutionalized.