The Genomics Education Partnership: Democratizing Genomics Research Experiences Nationwide

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Introduction
The Genomics Education Partnership (GEP) is a nationwide community of faculty dedicated to facilitating equity in undergraduate biology education.

GEP provides training, resources, and mentorship to empower faculty to provide their students experiential learning and Course-based Undergraduate Research Experiences (CUREs) in genomics and bioinformatics.

Objectives
- NSF-IUSE (October 2019)
  - Increase faculty and student engagement by leveraging regional clusters of participating institutions (Regional Nodes)
  - Expand membership focusing on enhancing Community College (CC) & Minority-Serving Institution (MSI) participation through Regional Node Events
  - Develop a platform for students to publish their annotation projects in microPublication

Projects
- NIH-IPERT (April 2019)
  - Develop distributed leadership model (committees)
  - Recruit new scientific partners to develop additional CUREs
  - Increase participation of underrepresented groups in the GEP, focusing on recruitment, mentoring, and support facilitated by an online mentoring network

Benefits
Faculty
- Curriculum & projects for easy integration

Students
- Engage in novel research w/in a course
- Gain marketable skills in critical thinking/big data
- Virtual TA available 7 days/week
- Opportunities to co-author publications
- Improve comprehension of genomics concepts

Institutions
- NO COST curriculum, training, & tech support
- Research infrastructure isn't needed
- Only requires access to computer & internet
- Incorporates best practices in science edu.
- Provides undergraduate research opportunities

Conclusion
GEP hosts free in-person and virtual New Member Trainings throughout the year. If you are interested in joining our Partnership or would like to chat one-on-one with a GEP member about what implementation might fit your course, let us know by completing the "Contact" form on the GEP website (thegep.org/contact/). If you have a scientific project that would benefit from careful annotation of a set of genes, also let us know via the above form.

“You can always learn the basics of genetics through PowerPoint slides and textbooks; however, you don’t fully grasp the beauty and minute complexity of the genetic code until you are tasked with unraveling it, and further, drawing meaning from it.” ~ GEP Student

This poster is based upon work supported by the National Science Foundation (1915544) & National Institute of General Medical Sciences of the National Institutes of Health (R25GM130517) to the Genomics Education Partnership (https://thegep.org/).