



ACCESS

Advancing Civil, Computer, & Electrical
Engineering Scholars for Success



ACCESS INFO SESSION

*Dr. Manuel Jimenez
ECE Professor
ACCESS PI and Director*

AGENDA

The ACCESS Project

The genesis of ACCESS

What is the ACCESS Scholarship

Eligibility

Benefits

Process

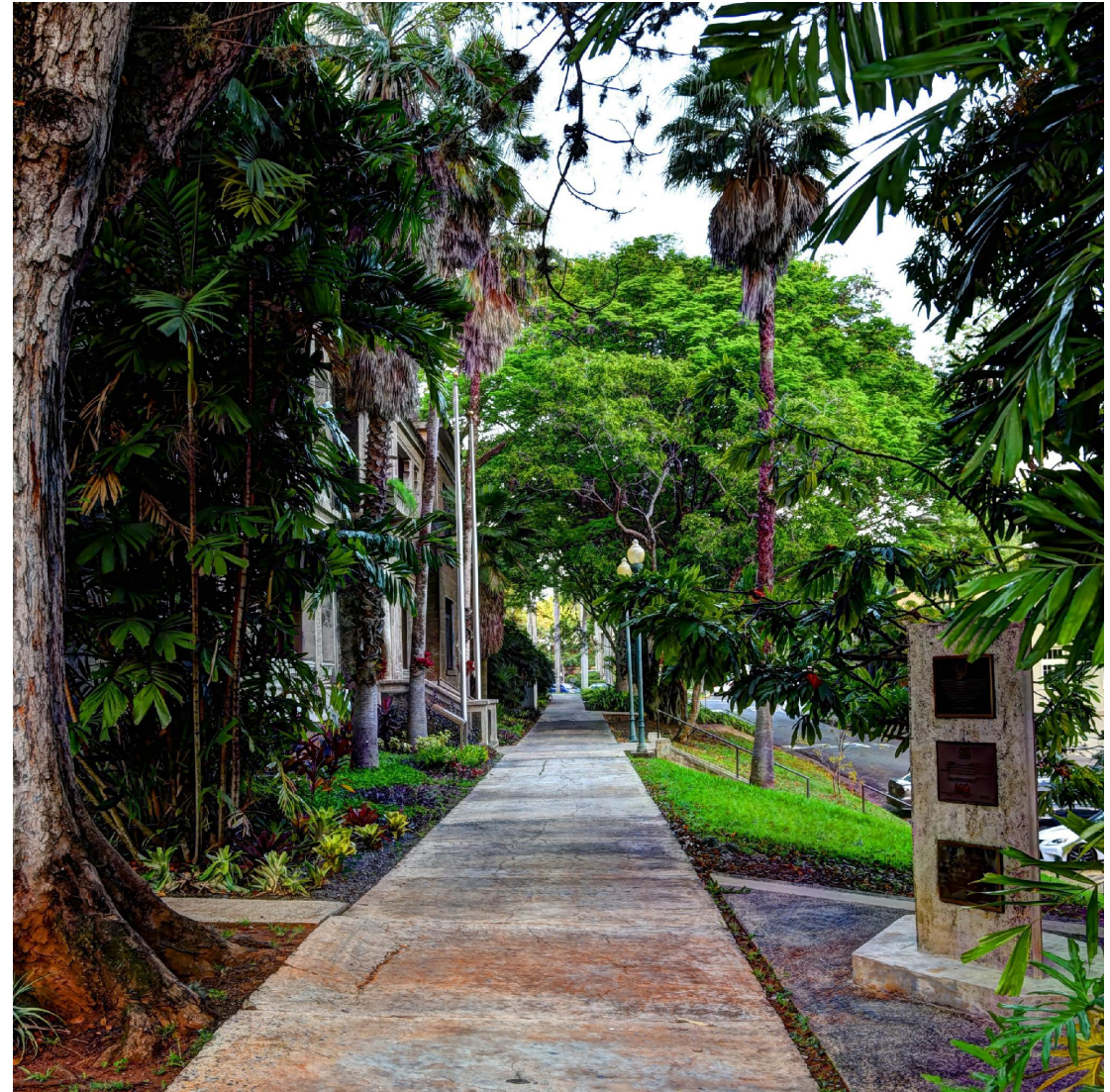
Participation in ACCESS

Data

Rights

Responsibilities

Q&A





THE ACCESS PROJECT

*Empowering Tomorrow's
Engineers, Today!*

THE PROBLEM BEING ADDRESSED

National Engineering Shortage

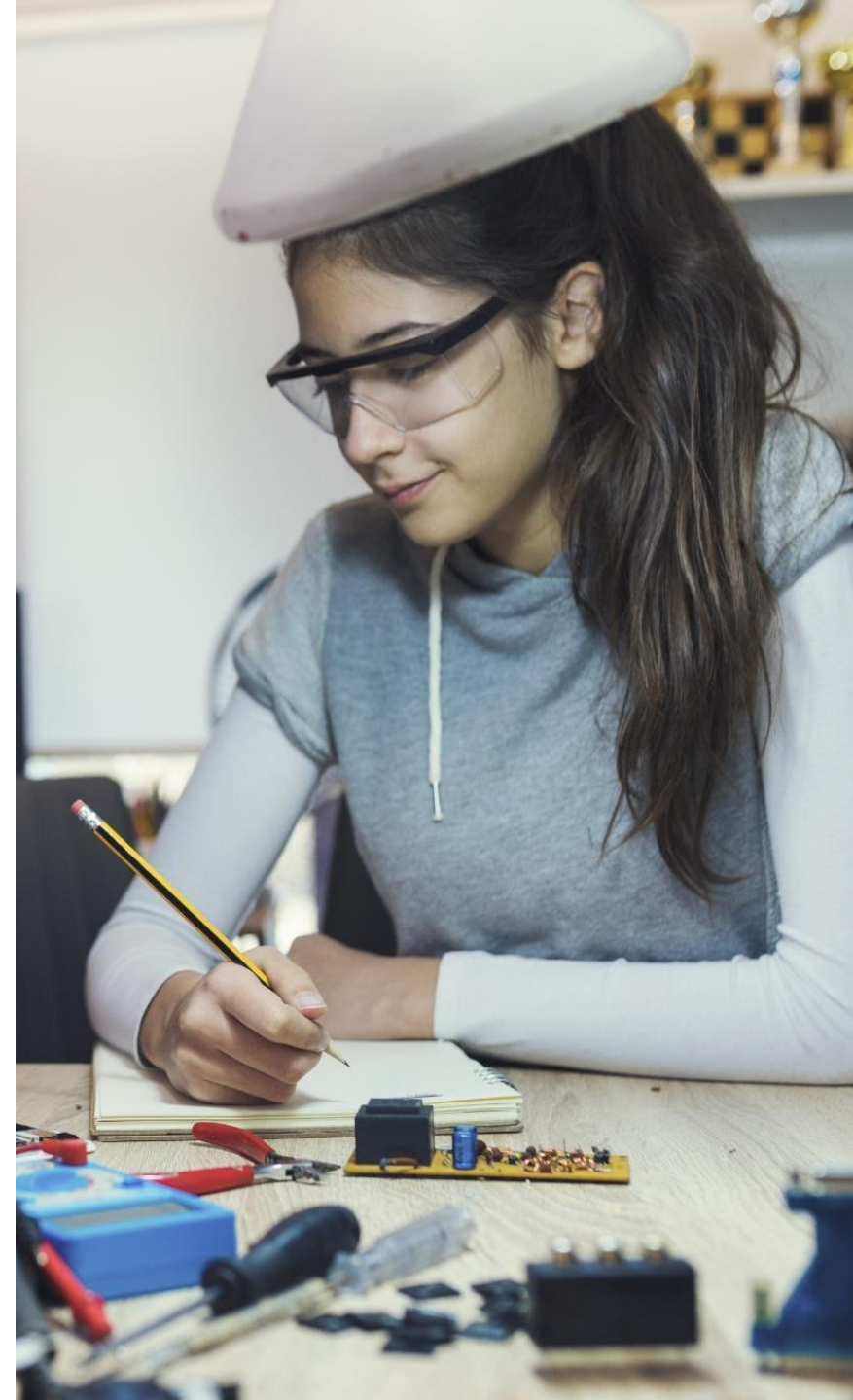
- There is a large national demand for engineering professionals with a projected shortfall exceeding 33% by 2033.

Low-Income Graduation Gap

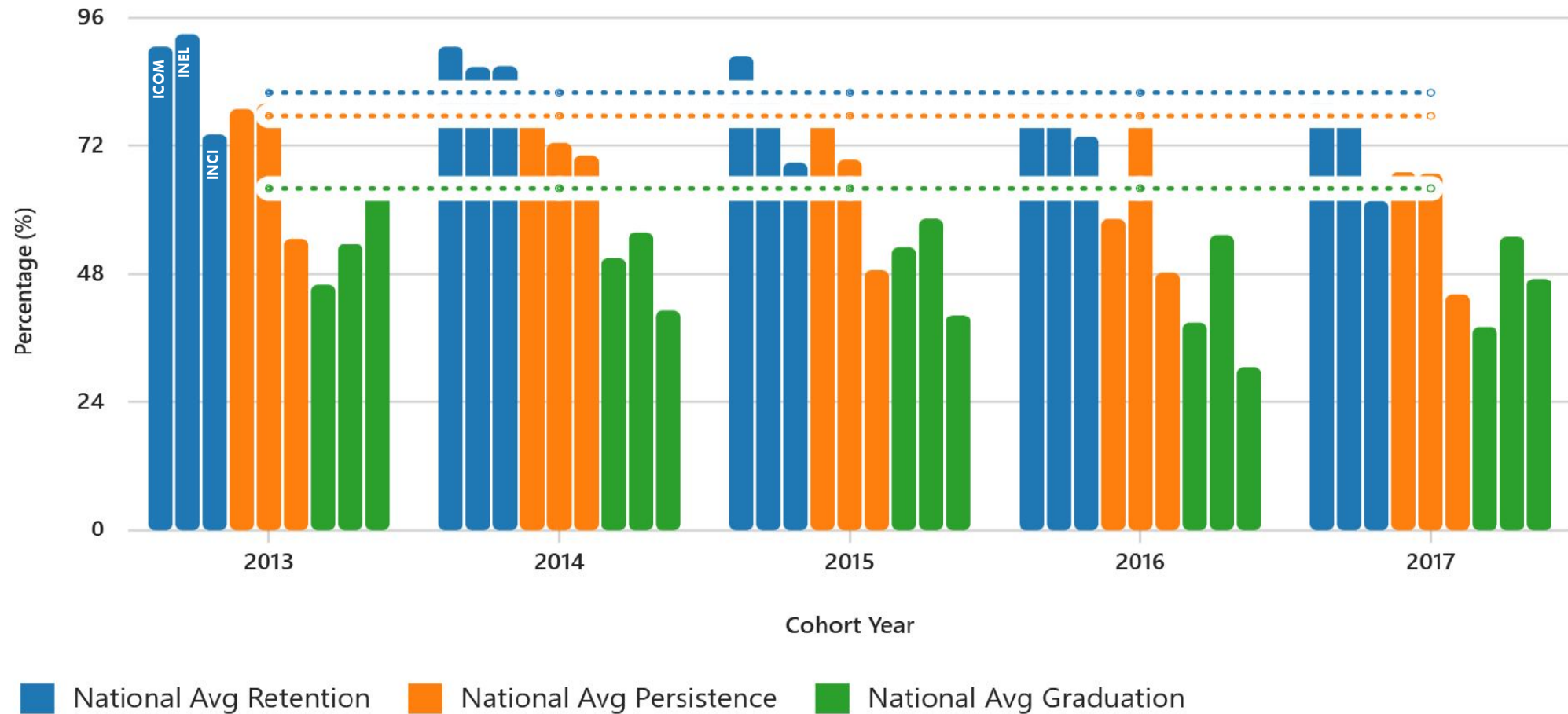
- Low-income students graduate at much lower rates, only 4.5% compared to 12% for their peers nationally.

Local University Challenges

- UPRM faces declining senior-year persistence by 25% and graduation rates down by 18%, affecting workforce readiness.



RETENTION, PERSISTENCE, & GRADUATION



OUR RESPONSE:



ACCESS

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Engineering Scholars for Success



VISION, MISSION, AND CORE VALUES

Vision Statement

To empower talented, low-income engineering students to become leaders in fields of national strategic importance by fostering academic excellence, professional readiness, and social mobility

Mission Statement

Our mission is to increase persistence, graduation rates, and workforce readiness of undergraduate students in Electrical, Computer, and Civil Engineering by addressing economic, academic, and socio-cognitive barriers to success

Core Values

Equity – We believe in providing equal opportunities for all students, regardless of socioeconomic background

Excellence – We promote high academic and professional standards through rigorous support and development

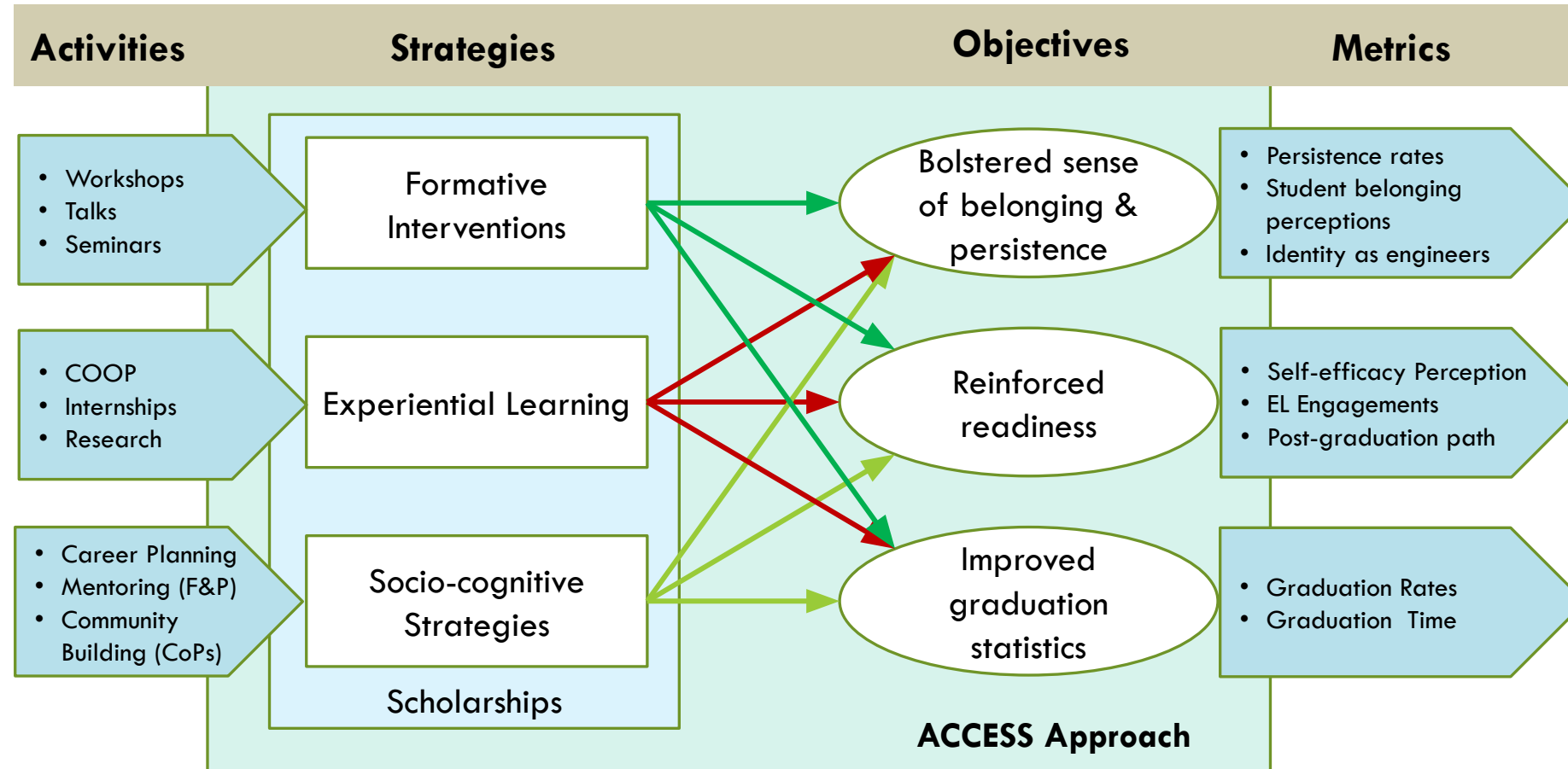
Belonging – We foster a strong sense of community and inclusion to enhance student engagement and persistence

Integrity – We uphold transparency, accountability, and ethical conduct in all program activities.

Empowerment – We equip students with tools, skills, and confidence to thrive both, academically and professionally.

Collaboration – We value partnerships with faculty, industry, and campus services to create holistic support systems

THE ACCESS APPROACH

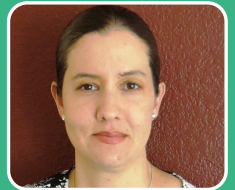


THE ACCESS TEAM



Dr. Manuel Jiménez

- ECE Professor
ACCESS PI & Director



Dr. Carla Lopez del Puerto

- Civil Engineering Professor
CoPI & Recruitment Coordinator



Dr. Jesús Sánchez Pérez

- ECE Professor
CoPI, Outreach & Industry Liaison

Dr. Nayda G. Santiago
- ECE Professor

- Training & Formative Activities



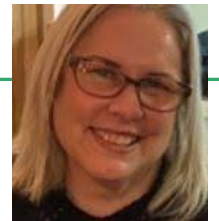
Dr. Daniel Rodriguez
- Civil Engineering Professor

- Data Analyst & Tracking



Dr. Janet Bonilla
-Psychology Professor

- External Evaluation & Assessment

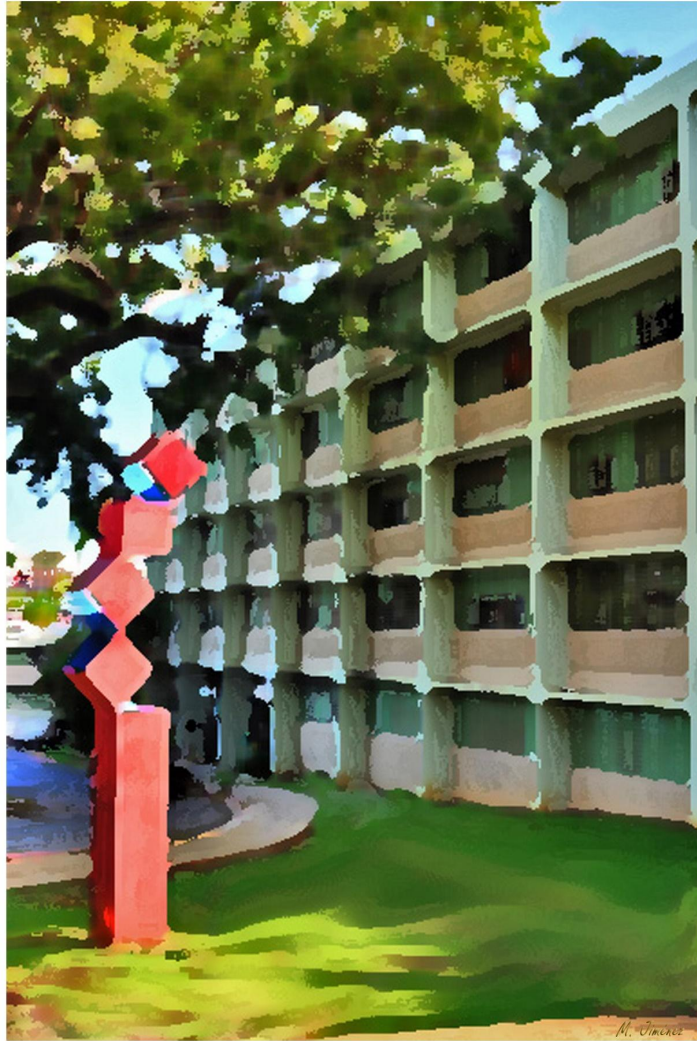




THE ACCESS SCHOLARSHIP

Breaking Barriers for Student Success

SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA



Enrollment

- Must be enrolled at least half-time in INEL, ICOM or INCI at UPRM

Citizenship

- Must be U.S. citizens, legal permanent residents, or qualified refugees

Financial Need

- Financial need certified by the UPRM Office of Financial Aid

Academic

- Must have completed 3rd year courses, approved 70% of taken credits, and maintain GPA 2.50

Disciplinary

- Must have no pending disciplinary cases or offenses in their record

PROGRAM & SCHOLARSHIP BENEFITS

Financial Support

Scholars may receive up to \$15,000 annually based on financial need to cover educational costs and reduce off-campus work

Mentoring and Guidance

The program offers structured mentoring from faculty and peers to support academic progress and professional goals

Experiential Learning

Internships, undergraduate research, and networking opportunities enhance practical skills and workforce readiness

Skill Development Workshops

Workshops on leadership, communication, and technical skills prepare scholars for career success after graduation



APPLICATION PROCESS

Application

Applicants submit an online form with an essay and academic transcript by the deadline

Selection Criteria

Academic talent

Potential to contribute to areas of national strategic need

Scholar Selection and Funding

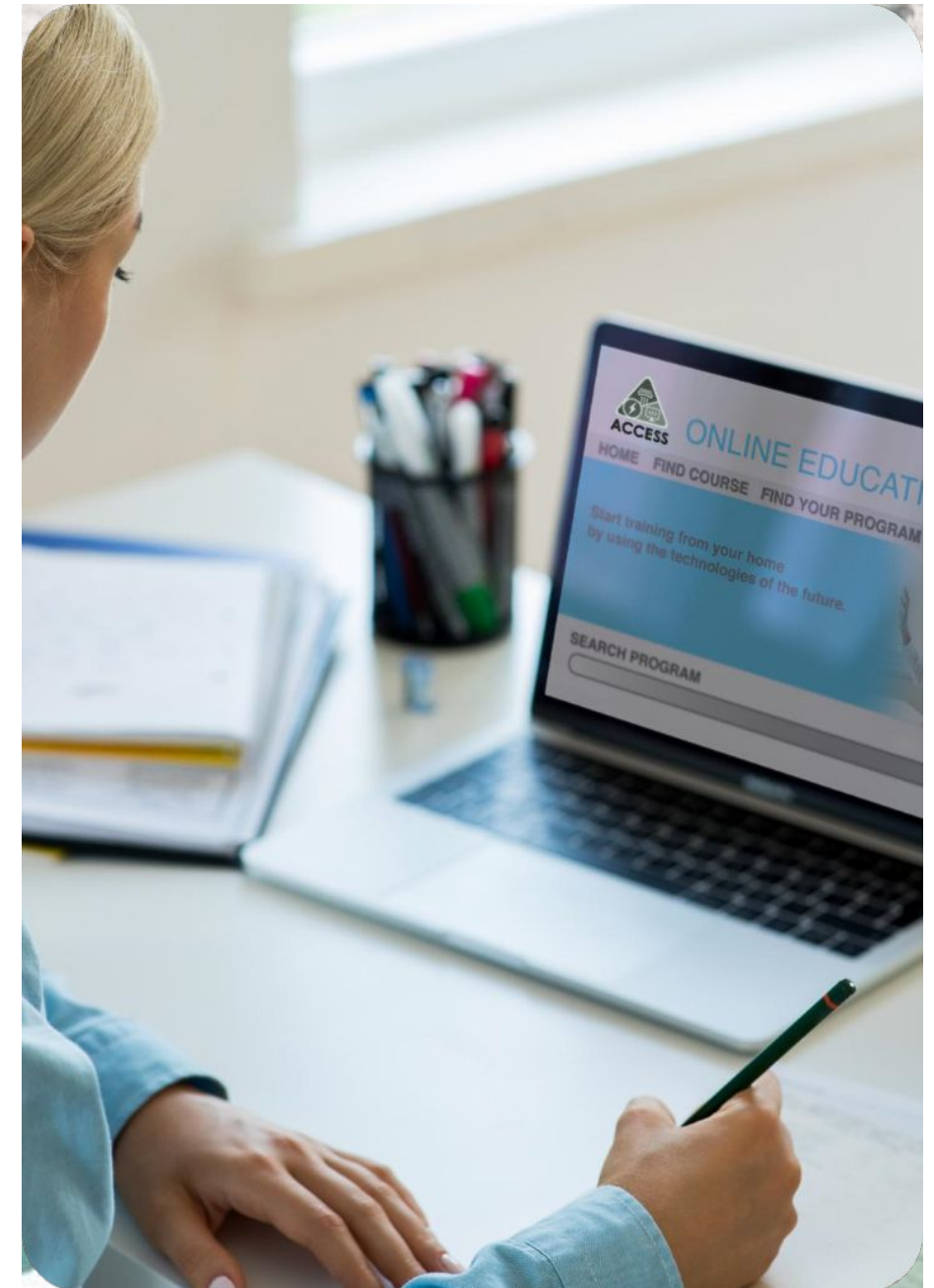
At least 27 scholars will be selected over three years

Funds are processed by Financial Aid Office

Waitlist and Replacement

Qualified applicants beyond the limit will be waitlisted

Replacements will be made if scholars leave, graduate, or transfer





SCHOLARS' RESPONSIBILITIES

Maintaining Eligibility

- Scholars must keep a minimum GPA of 2.50 and meet all entrance requirements continuously

Financial Aid Re-Certification

- Financial eligibility is re-certified annually by the Financial Aid Office for all active scholars

Mentorship and Support

- Regular engagement with faculty and peer mentors helps address academic challenges early

Probation and Improvement Plan

- Scholars on probation follow a three-phase improvement plan: diagnosis, referral, and follow-up



SUPPORT, RIGHTS, & DUTIES

A great benefit entitles a great responsibility...



DATA COLLECTION FOR ACCESS RESEARCH

Comprehensive Data Collection

- ACCESS collects diverse data via academic records, surveys, interviews, and activity logs to capture broad insights.

Secure Data Storage

- All data is anonymized and securely stored on institutional platforms like Google Drive and OneDrive.

Research and Reporting Alignment

- Data collection aligns with NSF requirements and supports national STEM education research and program evaluation.

Tracking Student Progress

- The program systematically tracks scholars' progress, persistence, and post-graduation outcomes to assess impact.

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Participation in research activities is voluntary and confidential, with no risk to scholarship status for opting out.

Research follows federal ethical standards and UPRM IRB protocols to protect scholars' rights and privacy.

Scholars have rights to review their data and understand its use, fostering transparency and trust.

The program safeguards scholars' autonomy and privacy to encourage active and responsible participation.

SCHOLARS' DUTIES



Academic Progress Requirements

Scholars must maintain a minimum GPA of 2.5 and demonstrate steady academic progress to remain eligible

Mentoring and Support

Regular mentoring sessions offer academic guidance and emotional support from faculty and peers

Formative and Experiential Learning

Participation in workshops, talks, seminars, internships, research builds career readiness & professional skills

Performance Feedback and Probation

Scholars provide feedback through surveys and may receive probationary support if performance declines



ACCESS SUPPORT SERVICES

Academic Support Services

Tutoring, writing centers, and academic advising help scholars excel academically and improve skills

Professional Development Resources

Career workshops, resume help, and interview preparation promote scholars' professional growth and readiness

Wellness and Counseling Services

Counseling, medical support, and peer groups promote mental health and overall well-being

Mentorship and Liaison Support

Faculty and peer mentors guide scholars, while coordinators facilitate access to needed resources

ACCESS ACTIVITIES CALENDAR



CALENDAR

Structured Activities Schedule

The program offers a well-planned calendar with monthly activities designed to engage and support scholars throughout the year.

Monthly Thematic Focus

Each month highlights specific activities such as onboarding, career workshops, research seminars, and recognition events.

Engagement and Accessibility

The calendar will be shared via email, web, and mobile apps to ensure scholar accessibility and encourage regular participation.

Program Goals Alignment

Activities support scholar belonging, professional readiness, and academic success, monitored through participation tracking.

