

**Plan 2008 Phase II Programs & Initiatives  
Outcomes Reporting Form  
January 2007**

<b>Your Institution:</b> Gaylord Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies
<b>Program/Initiative:</b> Integrated Biological Sciences Summer Research Program <b>Year Established:</b> 2006 Please note this indicates the year I first got involved with this program. It's not actually the year the program started. The program actually began back in 1990. Also, this program is not our initiative. It's a program through the UW-Madison's Center for Biology Education.
<b>Target Audience (check all that apply):</b> Administration:    Faculty:    Academic Staff:    Classified Staff:    Students: X    Campus Community: Other:    If other, please specify:
<b>Race/Ethnic Groups Affected by this Program/Initiative (check all that apply):</b> African American/Black: X    American Indian: X    Latino/Hispanic: X    Southeast Asian: X    Other Asian: X European American: <input type="checkbox"/> Other: X    If other, please specify: Low income and/or first generation
<b>Cost of Program/Initiative:</b> Dollars-wise, nothing for the Nelson Institute. Time-wise, a couple hours or so of my time per week for 10 weeks during the summer. <b>Funding Sources:</b> NSF & UW-Madison Graduate School
<b>Description:</b> The Summer Research Program in Biology (SRP-Bio) was developed in 1990 in response to an institutional request to provide opportunities for qualified undergraduate students to do research with distinguished UW-Madison faculty in the biological sciences. It is funded primarily through a Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) site grant from the National Science Foundation ( <a href="http://www.nsf.gov/">http://www.nsf.gov/</a> ), with matching support from the UW-Madison Graduate School. The program name changed to the Integrated Biological Sciences Summer Research Program (IBS-SRP) in 2006. Since the beginning, an average of 20-25 students have done research with faculty mentors each summer.
<b>Point Person(s):</b> Dr. Janet Branchaw/Jim Miller <b>Department/Unit(s):</b> Center for Biology Education/Gaylord Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies
<b>Departments/Units/Groups Involved:</b> Computational Biology & Biostatistics, Neurobiology, Cellular & Molecular Biology, Plant Breeding & Genetics, Environmental Biology (Botany, Entomology, Geography, Wildlife Ecology)
<b>Goals &amp; Expected Outcomes:</b> To get summer undergraduate researchers inspired to apply for graduate school. Ideally, they'd apply here to UW-Madison, but admittance to a graduate program anywhere could be considered a success. If they prove themselves as researchers during their summer stint here in Madison, hopefully they'll apply to that very same program, get accepted, and join that community of scholars. I strive to get the top-notch undergraduates from my IBS-SRP Environmental Biology subgroup to apply to our various graduate programs and to eventually matriculate. Our goal each year is to fill our allotment of AOFs from the Graduate School. If we can do that, we consider our recruitment and enrollment to be heading in a positive direction at the graduate level in regard to the spirit of Plan 2008. Being a part of the IBS-SRP could eventually increase minority applications to our various programs, possibly leading to larger minority enrollment in the Institute!
<b>Actual Measurable Outcomes for Plan 2008 Goals, Including Impact on Enrollment, Retention, and/or Graduation, and/or long term potential thereof.</b> This is difficult to apply to the Nelson Institute at the undergraduate level since we have no major in environmental studies. We do have an undergraduate program that offers a certificate, but that is different from a typical major here on campus. We actually focus on recruitment, acceptance, and graduation in regard to our graduate programs. We've been doing a good job of filling our AOFs the past four years, but this next year one such fellowship slot will go unfilled. For some reason we had a lower-than-usual minority applicant pool this past year, and only one will matriculate (Water Resources Management program). The only other minority applicant we admitted has decided to attend Yale, but she enjoyed her visit here and is considering us for a PhD a couple years down the road! Retention and graduation typically aren't an issue, except for double degree candidates. We had at least one minority student add one of our programs as a second major in recent years, but she ended up dropping it. We don't track students who drop or switch out of our programs. Only our current students and alumni are tracked in perpetuity. With regard to my

involvement in the IBS-SRP, one of the students in my very first subgroup (Summer 2006) got accepted to graduate school at Clemson and began his studies there already this summer!

**Intersections Across Plan 2008 Goals:** Not sure what this is asking or getting at.

**Assessment Practices and Program Changes in Response to Challenges:** In order to stay competitive with other top environmental graduate programs (i.e., Duke, Yale, Cornell, Michigan, etc.), we request priority consideration from our admissions committees regarding top-notch targeted-minority applicants. We have found the sooner we can get such prospects admitted in order to give them more time to consider Madison, the more likely we are to stand a chance of landing them, especially if we are able to bring them here for a visit!

**Prepared by:** Jim Miller

**Contact Info:**