Getting it Right!: Developing a Sustainable Pathway for Educating Underrepresented Puerto Rican Students in Geosciences
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**Introduction**

This project, conducted from May 26 to June 2, 2015, consisted of a strategic planning workshop that engaged mentors and 16 undergraduate students from minority-serving institutions participating in geoscience-relevant disciplines.

Leading partners conducted a weeklong workshop to envision a pathway towards establishing a sustainable, coupled education and research program in Puerto Rico. The workshop brought together new and existing partners in government, academia, NGO’s, and the private sector to discuss an educational framework for creating a new linked academic year and summer research curriculum to increase participation in STEM education and grow a geosciences literate Hispanic workforce. The participant partners were:

- UMCES, UT, UMET and... (rest of the partners are not visible in the image)

**Methods**

- **2-days strategic planning workshop with partners**
- **5-days research apprenticeship workshop**
- **Geoscience research experts from UMCES worked hand-in-hand with UT and UMET faculty and students**
- **Strong evaluation component, using quantitative and qualitative methods of data collection**
- **Outcome-driven planned activities**

**Results**

- **50% of the students had read scientific articles prior to the workshop**
- **4 students were randomly interviewed and expressed they liked the experience of collecting samples from the bioluminescent lagoon**
- **7 collaborative research projects were identified**
- **All students’ English skills improved significantly**

**References**