

**Name of Principle Investigator:** Monica Bugallo

**Project Title:** Exploring New Horizons: Science And Engineering Everywhere, At Anytime And For Everyone

1. Please consider the original timeline and deliverable targets. How is your project progressing compared with the original estimates?

The project is progressing according to the original timeline. We have several projects running under the IITG grant:

- **Webportal:** One full-time supported underrepresented graduate student is in charge of developing the webportal for all educational activities. The webportal is being developed using the open source content management system Drupal. An undergraduate student in his sophomore year has received a fellowship to collaborate and participate in parts of this activity. The webportal is the main tool of our project where our participants (the instructors' team, the undergraduate fellows, and later the participants of our educational activities) share their findings and materials and take surveys.
- **Android apps:** A female graduate student has been partially supported to develop the materials for a Women In Science and Engineering (WISE) workshop that will be delivered during the Spring semester. The workshop will be on "From Atoms to Apps" and it is a continuation of the workshop offered during the Spring 2013. However, all the apps activities are very different from the ones offered last year. An undergraduate student has received a fellowship to collaborate in this activity. Both students will be helping with the instruction of the actual offering.
- **Technology-based activities for high school students:** A female graduate student has been partially supported to develop the materials for informal seminars that will be imparted during the spring semester. These activities are related to image processing and will involve instructing high-school students in Matlab programming as well as in Apps development. She has also helped with some hands-on activities offered for female first year engineering undergraduate students related to our program.

2. How is spending progressing when compared with the original budget estimates?

The spending of the project is progressing according to the initial estimates. We have already used the funds to support graduate students and to offer fellowships for undergraduate students as well as for buying some materials. We will be using the remaining of funds to support more students, staff and faculty and buy equipment and materials needed to deliver the activities.

3. Please provide feedback regarding your experience with the project execution. In particular, any issues or roadblocks you've encountered that may have been unexpected.

There is some internal confusion about transfer of funds between the College and the Department and our administrators are trying to clarify which accounts to use and the procedures to follow in order to efficiently access the funds. However, we have been able to run the schedule activities without much delay.

4. What are your positive observations or pleasant surprises about your team's interaction or project process that might would be helpful to other PI's?

We are very happy with the group of students that are working with us. The graduate students have done a superb job in their different assignments and have acted as mentors of the undergraduates who have received the fellowships to participate in the different activities.

- For the Women In Science and Engineering (WISE) program that will be offered in the Spring 2014 we have already fourteen students registered.
- For the after-school activities for high school students we have two groups of 21 students each.

We have also got the volunteering participation of a high school teacher who is training part of the team and will be helping in the instruction of the WISE offering, a pre-service teacher who will be helping in the offerings for the high school students, a researcher from Brookhaven National Laboratory who will help with some introductory activities for the WISE students and a technician of the Physics Department who will assist in the high school events.

5. Please describe any challenges you've encountered working with your project team that you've found solutions for that might be helpful to other PI's.

Most of the challenges have been related to having the funds available from our internal accounts and to be able to purchase materials using the University tools. We are still waiting for some of the procedures to be clarified but we have been able to offer our activities anyway.