

Biology Undergraduate Society

The purpose of the Society is to represent the interests of undergraduate biology students at UNM. We seek to foster a sense of community among the biology undergraduates through service projects, active scientific discussions and debates, research, field trips, and other social events.

Project STEP AHEAD Philosophy

BUGS believes in the intrinsic worth of each student. We are committed to promoting the individual student's participation in cooperative learning, self-efficacy, and the achievement of personal and educational goals. We trust and respect the role the step ahead mentoring relationship plays in facilitating the overall student development process within the biology undergraduate community.

Project STEP AHEAD Partners

BUGS is collaborating with Biology Undergraduate Academic Advising Program and UNM's Living and Learning Community-Biology Studies to create an engaging learning interaction for freshman and BUGS members/biology undergraduate students.

Project STEP AHEAD Mission

Our mission is to support first-year students as they embark upon their college careers. We will promote student success by helping freshmen become socially and academically integrated into the biology department and UNM community. We will provide a positive learning experience by actively engaging students and encouraging them to take ownership of their college experience.

Project STEP AHEAD Program Goals

- Facilitate group/individual activities that support LLC course work.
- Introduce freshmen to the UNM Biology Faculty, Staff and Students.
- Introduce freshmen to activities and resources on UNM campus.
- Provide insight regarding undergraduate opportunities in the Department of Biology.
- Make available one-on-one mentoring opportunities.
- Help students transition from freshman to sophomore-declared major.

Project STEP AHEAD Participants

Step-Ahead Mentors

Biology Undergraduate Society (BUGS) members and biology undergraduate students will serve as the step-ahead mentors.

Definition: A step-ahead mentor is usually an individual who is one hierarchical level above the protégé or in a position that would be the protégé's next logical step in their career progress (Darling, 1986).

Protégés (students being mentored)

Freshmen have been pre-selected based upon their participation in UNM's Living and Learning Communities (LLC), Biology Studies.

Volunteer Responsibilities of *STEP AHEAD* Mentors

- Commit 12 hours to work with student during the Fall 2010 semester.
- Attend a 1 hour program orientation. Update program coordinator of protégé's progress.
- Assist *Project Step Ahead* in completing program goals.
- Help students in developing their Research Quest Day posters.
- Serve as the "voice of experience" to LLC freshmen.
- Recognize when a student needs other assistance (i.e. tutoring, counseling).

Benefits of being a *STEP AHEAD* Mentors

- Gain experience for future student leadership and professional opportunities
- Develop improved communication skills.
- Earn double volunteer points with BUGS.

Qualifications to be a *STEP AHEAD* Mentors

- Sophomore, Junior, Senior or "Super Senior."
- Declared Biology major with the College of Arts and Sciences.