

iAAMCS
Distinguished Fellowship
Writing Workshop

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Pilot Workshop Criteria

- Criteria for acceptance
 - Currently enrolled in an undergraduate or a graduate Computer Science degree or related program
 - Submit a 1 page personal statement similar to the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program
 - Submit a 2-3 page research statement
 - Resume or CV

Pilot Workshop Logistics

- Held as part of the Richard Tapia 2014 Conference in Seattle, Washington
- February 8, 2014 from 12pm to 5pm
- 8 participants
 - 5 males and 3 females
 - 7 of 8 students attended predominantly white institutions
 - 1 of 8 students attend a HBCU

Pilot Workshop Format

- Lunch
 - Introduction
 - Purpose of the workshop
 - Discussion about the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program
- Hands-on activities
 - Divide into small groups
 - Critique sample personal statements
 - Derive writing guidelines
- Peer review of research statement
 - Divide into groups of two
 - Immediate Feedback
 - Revise research statement

Participant Evaluations

- Does Jerlando or Levar have any of this feedback since we didn't collect this data?

Pilot Workshop Criteria

- Criteria for acceptance
 - Currently enrolled in an undergraduate/graduate Computer Science degree or related program
 - Applying for graduate school in the fall of 2015
 - Submit a 1 page personal statement similar to the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program
 - Submit a 2-3 page research statement
 - Resume or CV

2nd DFWW Logistics

- Held as part of the Richard Tapia 2015 Conference in Boston, MA
- February 18, 2015 from 12pm to 5pm
- 13 student participants
 - 5 males and 8 females
 - 4 of 13 students attend HBCUs
 - 9 of 13 students attend non-HBCUs
 - 31% were undergraduates
 - 54% were graduate students
 - 15% in transition from workforce to graduate school
 - 62% plan to apply for external funding for graduate school

2nd DFWW Format

- Lunch
 - Introduction
 - Expectations
- Group Discussion
 - Fellowship opportunities for graduate school
 - Writing competitive applications
- Mock-Panel Reviews
 - Divide into groups of 4-5 students
 - Critique sample personal statements
 - Derive writing guidelines
- Peer review of research statement
 - Swap research statements with peer
 - Provide immediate Feedback
 - Revise research statement
- Graduate School Panel
 - Led by graduate student participants
 - Moderated questions and questions from the audience

Student Testimonials

- 69% extremely satisfied
- 31% quite satisfied

Student Testimonials

Positive feedback

- “It was engaging! I love that power point slides were not involved at all; very hands-on.”
- “The fact that the presenters have experience judging applications.”
- “What I liked about the workshop was the ability to listen to other students college experience and reviewing personal statements to assist in writing a stronger personal statement for

Negative feedback

- “I wish the workshop would have provided a template or roadmap of what to include in a personal statement or research statement. More opportunity to practice writing.”
- “Plus stick to a more strict schedule to cover all activities planned for the session.”
- “The time length.”
- “we ran out of time :(“

Next Steps

- Hold a 2-day workshop in the metro Atlanta area
- Recruit more students from HBCUs
- Engage people from industry and other organizations
- Expand list of topics covered
 - Resumes/CV
 - Preparation for Graduate School
 - Job opportunities in industry that required advanced CS degrees