The following diversity activities took place in the School of Sciences and Mathematics since July 2015.

Summer 2015

- In Summer II, Dr. Dawne Taylor offered a section of CHEM 103, a preparatory class for general chemistry, for 12 entering SCAMP/SPECTRA students. These URM students all enrolled in CHEM 103 and MATH 111 with Dr. Sophia Agrest.

  Along with support from SC Space Grant hosted a half day-long series of activities for young campers with terminal cancer. Five stations were set up for the campers to explore Earth and Space through dynamic hands-on activities and more calm discussions with scientists and CoC students interested in space.

- Both the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) and NIH-INBRE grants on campus have incentivized and continue to incentivize faculty to seek URM students to participate in their research group by providing stipends and supply money for students.

- The Computer Science department participated in a "Girls Day Out: event which was co-hosted with SPAWAR during July. The program introduces 8th and 9th grade girls and their parents to STEM disciplines. The camp includes about 70 girls, and is designed to educate and attract girls to pursue science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) careers while having fun! Department Contact: Christine Moore

- The Engaging Creative Minds Summer STEAM Institute was held for creative and energetic students in grades 3-8. They spent their summer engaged in unique learning experiences that fostered creativity to solve real world challenges working with local artists, cultural organizations, and professionals in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. At least 25% of the students were from title 1 school. STEAM has an added component (A for ARTS) from a traditional STEM program.

Fall Semester 2015

- The SCAMP Program provides URM students with opportunities to challenge themselves academically, to increase their chances for academic success, to prepare them for what to expect in STEM career fields, and to sharpen their academic skills.

- The Computer Science department hosted the Black Googlers Network (BGN) event at Harbor Walk. The program for minorities featured talks and activities delivered by African American Googlers from around the world. The Black Googler Network was founded in 2006 as one of the first employee resource groups (ERG) at Google. Like all 20+ ERGs, BGN is a grassroots network of employees with shared values of supporting diversity and inclusion internally and within our communities. BGN members volunteer in the community, share their expertise, and organize activities around a 3-pillar mission: Empower Communities. Transform Technology.
• BIOL associate professor Chris Korey taught a Learning Community First Year Experience for SCAMP students.

• Community Outreach Research and Learning (CORAL) The Grice Marine Lab held numerous discussions, demonstrations, and hands-on activities for pre-college students, especially URM students.

• Dr. Sophia Agrest (MATH) used her Tensor SUMMA Grant to encourage the pursuit and enjoyment of mathematics by students who are members of groups historically underrepresented in the field of mathematics.

• On October 7 the SCAMP program held its annual research dinner featuring research presentations by undergraduate students.

• The Department of Geology & Environmental Geosciences sponsored Earth Science Day, a hands-on event, on Saturday, November 11, 2015. Every race, gender, ethnicity was represented

• Throughout the year PHYS Faculty held presentations on various physics and astronomy topics including discussions, demonstrations, and hands-on activities for K-12 students, especially URM students.

• Departments have begun faculty recruiting efforts and incorporating tactics to increase the number of minority applicants.

• The Mace Brown Museum of Natural History has hosted many schools and programs that consisted of predominately underrepresented minors. The numbers are well over 500 students

• SSM made a major financial contribution of $7500 to the SCAMP budget.

• Diversity is a topic on the agenda at each semi-monthly department chairs meeting.

• The Department of Computer Science’s Women in Computing chapter continues to grow in number.

• Professor Cass Runyon in the Department of Geology & Environmental Geosciences developed and shared tactile graphics for students who are blind. Content includes introductory Geology courses as well as Math 103 in association with the Math instructor. This effort also included writing and developing four introductory space science books and associated tactile graphics for audiences with disabilities. The books are being printed by NASA for broad distribution across the country.

Spring Semester 2016

• The School of Sciences & Mathematics hosted approximately 100 students from Mitchell Elementary on January 4 and 5, 2016 to participate in a number of hands-on activities in biology, chemistry, & physics.

• URM Maya Dillegard served as our student worker in the SSM office.

• At the STEM Festival Kick-off at Brittlebank Park on Saturday February 6 the Lowcounty Hall of Science and various SSM faculty members sponsored numerous hands-on activities for the approximate 10,000 participants, over 50% of who were female and around 20% of whom were underrepresented minorities.

• Darwin Week, with a special Piccolo Darwin Week for local K-12 communities, was held in honor of Charles Darwin’s birthday, February 8-12. During the week, around 200 students attended lectures on evolutionary science.
• On February 19 the fourth annual Education Day at the College of Charleston Women’s Basketball game featured S.T.E.M. activities presented by all of the departments of the School of Sciences & Mathematics, the School of Education, Health & Human Performance, and the Office of Sustainability, plus several non-CoC agencies. Approximately 1600 4th-8th graders and their teachers and chaperones attended. Over 40% of those attending were from underserved communities.

• On Saturday February 20 the Math Department hosted its 40th annual Math Meet. Approximately 800 students and coaches from the tri-state area come to Charleston for a day of mathematics competition, culminating in an event hosted by the American Mathematical Society called "So you want to be a mathematician", and ending in an awards ceremony. The event is a celebration of exceptional talent and broad diversity. Every race, gender, ethnicity is highly represented.

• The SSM Poster Session on April 14 featured 126 posters, many from SCAMP, HHMI, or INBRE minority students.

• The following Excel awards were presented to members of SSM:
  o SSM Outstanding Faculty Member- Neal Tonks
  o SCAMP Student of the Year – Victoria Edmund and Needhee Patel
  o SSM Student of the Year- Wendell Roberson
  o Honors College Outstanding Student – Jenesha Nance
  o Eugene C. Hunt Senior Minority Student- Sierra Small
  o Eugene C. Hunt Junior Minority Student- Brandi Bell
  o Eddie Ganaway Distinguished Alumni Award- Dr. Ebony Hilton, MD
  o The President Harry Lightsey Humanitarian Award- Jim Deavor

• HHMI and INBRE will be funding a number of minority students to participate in summer research projects with SSM faculty.

• Dr. Susan Morrison of the Department of Biology is the academic advisor for students participating in the PREP program for MUSC students. This program is designed to prepare applicants who are from underrepresented groups in medicine & dentistry and who are considered to have a good chance of success. They are selected from the pool of applicants to MUSC’s dental school or medical school. They spend one year at the College of Charleston taking primarily science courses, with funding coming from MUSC.

• In June 2016 the Department of Computer Science hosted the Geek Squad Summer Academy. The 2-day computer camp comprises about 100 girls mostly from the Lowcountry. Sponsored by Best Buy Geek Squad, the girls learn subjects such as Robotics, Digital Filming, 3-D Printing, and Digital Citizenship.