

Findings are presented from evaluation of usefulness and impact of the 2014 UPP Down Under & AISIESS Programs.

2014 Undergraduate PIRE Program (UPP) Down Under

2014 UPP Program

Twelve undergraduates attended the Summer 2014 UPP Down Under Program held at UC Irvine, University of Melbourne, and Monash University in Australia.

- ◆ **UCI Weeks 1-2:** Student Orientation, field trips, & lectures
- ◆ **Australia Weeks 3-4:** Tours of facilities, & lectures
- ◆ **UCI Weeks 5-6:** Tours, lectures, & student presentations



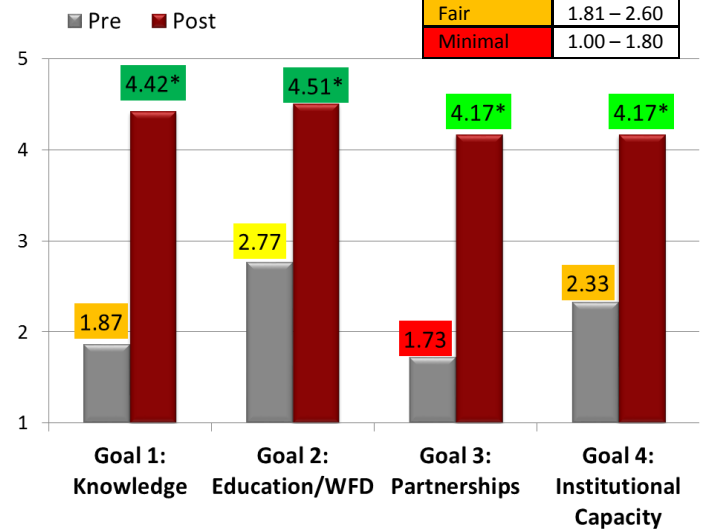
PROJECT GOALS

- Goal 1: Knowledge/Research/Discovery
- Goal 2: Education/Workforce Development
- Goal 3: Partnerships
- Goal 4: Institutional Capacity

Achievement of Project Goals

Participants reported statistically significant increases across all goals. Greatest growth experienced in understanding of sustainable urban water systems.

Extensive	4.21 – 5.00
Good	3.41 – 4.20
Moderate	2.61 – 3.40
Fair	1.81 – 2.60
Minimal	1.00 – 1.80



Additional Topics Requested by Students



Follow-up with 2013 UPP Participants

All 2013 UPP participants have gone on to graduate school or have aspirations to do so. Many have remained connected to water topics through research, presentations, projects, and internships and several plan to continue in academia.

PhD students in a STEM field	✓✓✓✓✓
Interested in graduate school	✓✓✓✓
Water-focused projects	✓✓✓
Interested in becoming a professor	✓✓✓
Water-related internships	✓✓
Water-related presentation	✓

Quotes from 2014 UPP Participants

- "Thoroughly enjoyed the program. I've learned so much, both about water sustainability and myself."*
- "I love you all, thanks for such an amazing experience!"*
- "It was a great experience for me. I learned a lot and enjoyed it immensely. I really appreciate all the hard work and time you put into this program."*
- "The entire experience was amazing. I feel like I learned so much about how to be a better student, researcher and professional."*

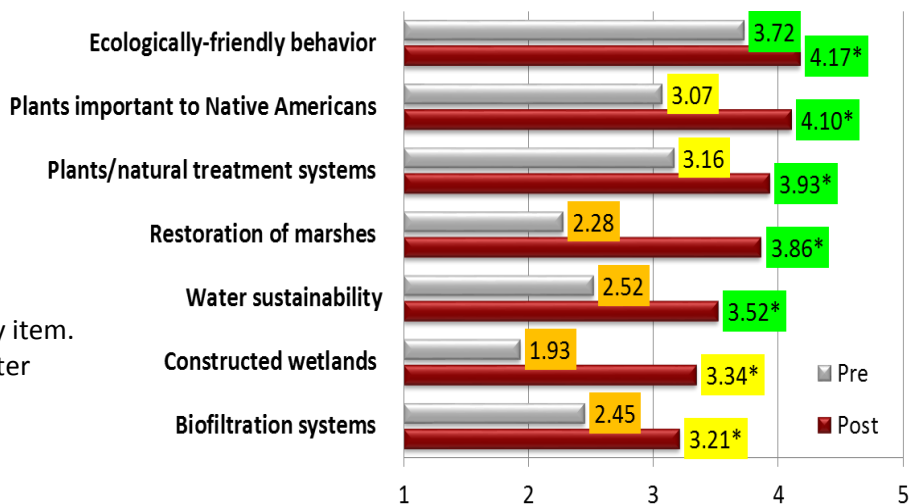
2014 American Indian Summer Institute in Earth System Science (AISIESS) Program

AISIESS students' familiarity with environmental issues before and after participation

PIRE leaders provided a marsh tour, lecture on water conservation, and materials for AISIESS students' projects.

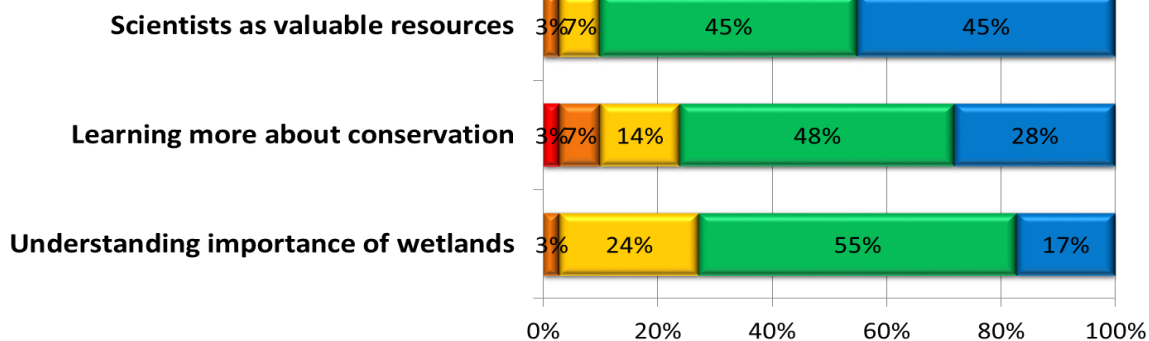
Extremely familiar	4.21 – 5.00
Very familiar	3.41 – 4.20
Somewhat familiar	2.61 – 3.40
Slightly familiar	1.81 – 2.60
Not familiar at all	1.00 – 1.80

- Statistically significant gains in every item.
- Most items rated as *very familiar* after participation.



AISIESS student's areas of improvement related to program objectives

■ No improvement ■ Slight improvement ■ Some improvement ■ Good improvement ■ Great improvement



Evaluator's Recommendations

UPP Down Under Program

- Increase advertising, target majors outside of STEM.
- Seek balanced gender participation.
- Target URM students, specifically African Americans.
- Provide more preparation and information beforehand.
- Provide statistical tools and data analysis techniques.
- Incorporate opportunities to participate in affiliated projects and internships after UPP experience.
- Maintain connections with Australian partners.

AISIESS Program

- Provide opportunities for students to engage in real-world experiences.
- Increase communication and collaboration between the PIRE PI, UPP Down Under and AISIESS coordinators.

- Over 75% experienced *good to great improvement* in their interest in learning more about wetlands and conservation.
- More than 70% expressed *good to great improvement* in their understanding of wetlands and marshes.

Upcoming Evaluation Activities

- Conduct post-survey of all PIRE participants
- Conduct post-survey of graduate students who participate in research abroad.
- Conduct pre/post-IDI on graduate students who participate in research abroad.
- Conduct pre/post-surveys on US & Australia delegation participants.