

1125-00-2540      **Ana-Maria Croicu\*** ([acroicu@kennesaw.edu](mailto:acroicu@kennesaw.edu)), 1000 Chastain Rd., Kennesaw, GA 30144. *NSF Scholarship Program in Science and Mathematics at Kennesaw State University*. Preliminary report.

The NSF Scholarship Program in Science and Mathematics at Kennesaw State University (KSU) has the following objectives: (1) To improve the efforts to recruit more high-school students into STEM disciplines at KSU; (2) To increase participation, retention and completion of an undergraduate degree in one of the STEM disciplines by academically talented, but financially needy students; (3) To provide opportunities to attract more academically talented, under represented (minority and women) or first-generation low-income students; (4) To increase the number of students enrolling in STEM graduate programs and to help students enter workplace after graduation; (5) To broaden the student academic experience through participation in STEM related cohorts, mentoring and research activities, internships and conference presentations. The evaluation of the NSF grant done in 2016 indicates that the program has been successful in supporting, promoting and retaining undergraduate students in STEM disciplines. NSF Scholarship recipients were found to have higher GPAs on average, they were more likely to have a GPA above 3.0, exhibited higher retention rates and were more likely to engage in research with faculty relative to STEM students who did not receive the NSF Scholarship. (Received September 20, 2016)