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Jenna R Van Sickle* (jenna.vansickle@gmail.com). *Effects of the Operation STEM Program on Underrepresented Minority Students.*

Operation STEM (OpSTEM) is a NSF grant-funded program that seeks to improve retention and graduation among high-risk students seeking STEM degrees by supporting them through the precalculus-calculus sequence. OpSTEM focuses its attention on students from underrepresented minority (URM) groups, first-generation college students, and women. The OpSTEM program has two levels of treatment—one group receives supplemental instruction while another group receives a comprehensive program. This study considers URM students as compared with their non-URM counterparts and considers how well these groups fare in their precalculus courses. Both of the OpSTEM treatments show all groups making significant gains, with URM students making relatively greater gains. For non-URM students, the majority of the gains in pass rates are seen with supplemental instruction alone. For URM students, however, the comprehensive program increases the pass rates so much that URM students become difficult to distinguish from their non-URM counterparts. We conclude that for URM students in particular, a comprehensive program is necessary in order to narrow the achievement gap between these students and their peers. (Received September 26, 2017)