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*Early engagement of STEM Majors into a Community of STEM Majors.*

Our S-STEM project, SMART Texas, sought to engage Scholars as soon as they arrived on campus with a Residential Learning Community, a Student Success course, personalized faculty mentoring, and STEM fieldtrips. Some missteps notwithstanding, we achieved 3 times the graduation rate of a paired longitudinal comparison group, along with superior engagement on STEM activities and undergraduate research. We will share our findings and lessons learned. (Received September 07, 2020)