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A Tale of Two Workshops: Two Workshops, Three Papers, New Ideas

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## Opening Futures to Opportunity
### Research Experiences for Undergraduate Faculty

Participating in a research experience in mathematics as an undergraduate can change a student’s life, inspiring him or her to pursue a career in the mathematical sciences. Approximately 60 percent of bachelor’s degrees in mathematics are awarded by primarily undergraduate institutions, or colleges and universities that do not have doctoral programs. Faculty at these institutions typically teach heavy coursework loads and have limited time to invest in their own research pursuits, which means that engaging in research with students can be challenging. AIM’s Research Experiences for Undergraduate Faculty (REUF) program encourages faculty to do research with undergraduates, while providing an avenue for research re-engagement for the faculty themselves and a network for professional support. Many of the faculty participants initiate research with undergraduates following the workshop; some have published papers with REUF collaborators.

The REUF program originated with a workshop proposal by three faculty members at historically black, primarily undergraduate institutions: Roselyn Williams of Florida A&M University, Yewande Olubummo of Spelman College, and Joe Omojola of Southern University at New Orleans. Since the first REUF workshop of Spelman College, and Joe Omojola of Southern University at New Orleans. Since the first REUF workshop in 2009, approximately 20 fully funded participants and four mathematical leaders, senior mathematicians who have experience doing research with undergraduate students. Most of the time is spent doing mathematics, but there are also whole group discussions about topics such as best practices in undergraduate research. The workshop also includes instruction in using the free open-source mathematics software Sage.

In addition to the workshop, each annual cycle of the REUF program includes follow-up activities for participants to support continuation of research engagement sparked by the workshop. One research group per year receives funding to return to AIM for a week to continue their collaboration.

Beginning this year, the Institute for Computational and Experimental Research in Mathematics (ICERM), in Providence, Rhode Island, has partnered with AIM on the REUF program. ICERM hosted the REUF 4 workshop in June 2012 in their beautiful new facility and will do so again in summer 2013. AIM looks forward to continuing this partnership.

– Brianna Donaldson and Leslie Hogben