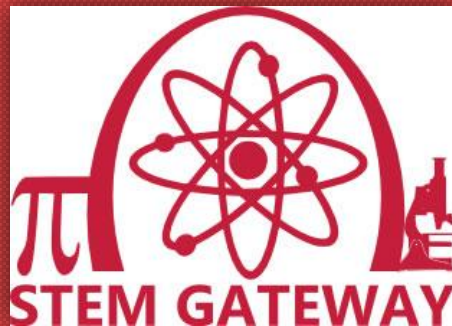


Peer Learning Facilitators

Collaborative Learning
in STEM Gateway Courses



Who are the PLFs?

- The PLFs:

- are undergraduate students
- are academically qualified in the course
- understand firsthand the challenges of gateway STEM classes
- desire to help their peers succeed academically through collaboration and mentorship
- often study in the STEM fields (24 majors, 4 minors)

What are the PLF Courses?

- PLFs have served in:
 - Chemistry 121, 122
 - Earth & Planetary Science 101, 201
 - Math 120, 121, 150, 180
 - Physics 167
- We hope to expand the program to include more classes, including additions in Biology.

What do PLFs do?

- PLFs work with faculty in gateway STEM courses to support collaborative learning activities.
- PLFs work in teams of at least two.
- PLFs meet weekly with their classroom team.
- PLFs attend weekly professional development meetings.

Does Collaborative Learning Matter?

Each spring and fall semester, we survey the students in PLF-supported classes.

The majority of students feel that having a PLF available in class was either very (40.9%, 43.2%) or moderately (50.4%, 47.3%) important.

We also asked them if they feel that they learn more when they work together.

Spring 2012



Yes, I learn much more.

Of the 767 students surveyed in PLF-supported STEM Gateway classrooms, 551 say that they learn much more when working together with other students.

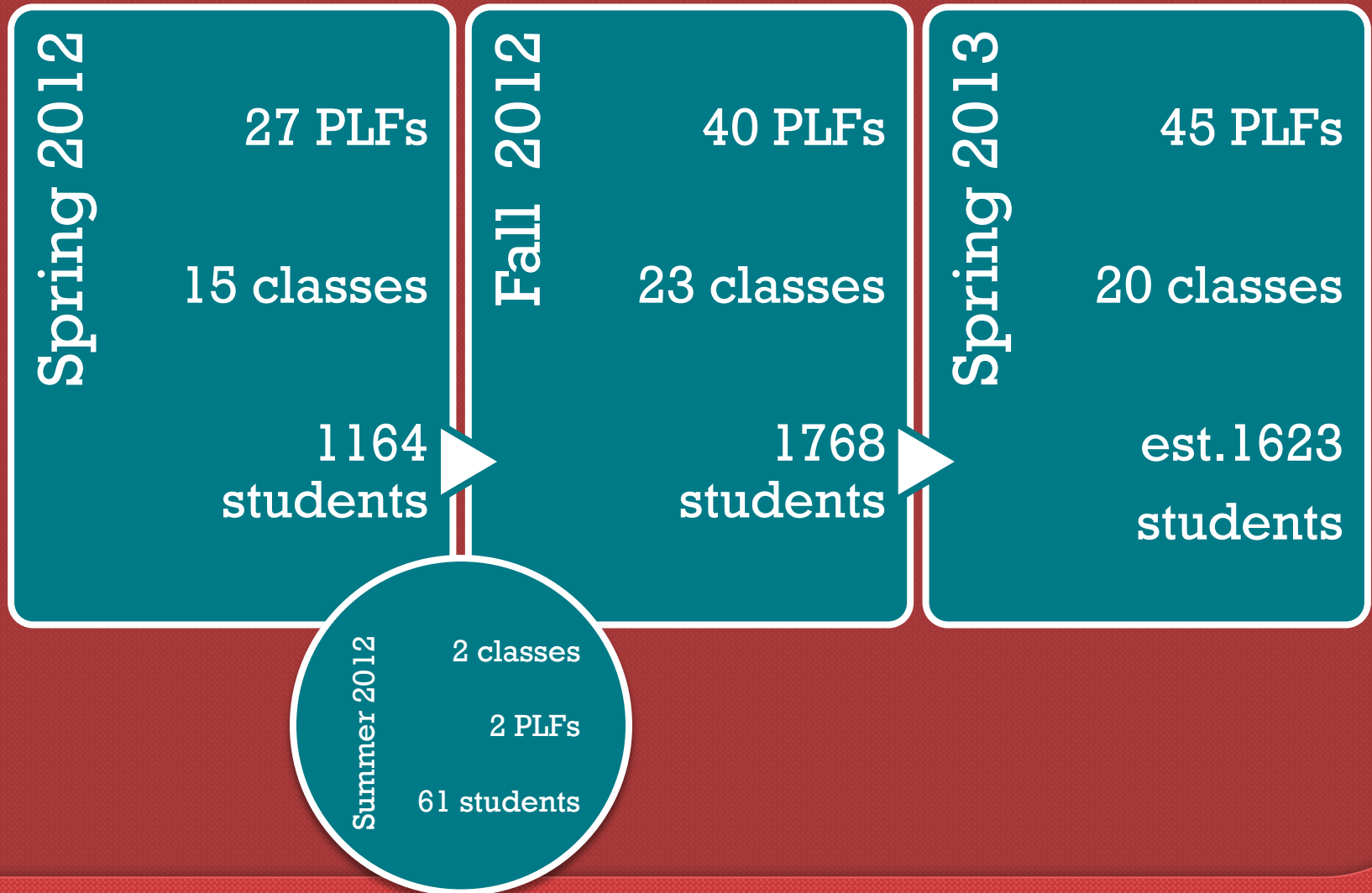
Fall 2012



Yes, I learn much more.

Of the 1,091 students surveyed in PLF-supported STEM Gateway classrooms, 801 say that they learn much more when working together with other students.

PLF Program in Three Semesters





46% of enrollments in PLF-supported sections were from Hispanic students, compared to an average 37%* for all of UNM.

In all sections, 66% of enrollments were Hispanic or low-income.

The successful completion percentage for Hispanic and/or low-income students during Spring 2012 was 58.5% compared to the Fall 2011 baseline data of 53.7%.

+9.1% change
from baseline to first semester
implementation

