Further information & application link: http://isee.ucsc.edu/programs/west/index.html

Institute for Scientist & Engineer Educators
UC Santa Cruz • 831-459-5592

WEST OFFERS:

✦ An opportunity to meet other transfer students and learn important concepts in science and engineering by actively engaging in the real processes of science through inquiry based activities
✦ Information about navigating academics as a transfer student and securing a position in a research lab
✦ Discussions addressing the specific needs of S&E transfer students
✦ Multiple venues to meet members of the UCSC community
✦ Accelerated residential move in date with UCSC’s Early Arrival Program, specifically for WEST participation, all accepted residential applicants will be granted early move-in on Monday, September 14th

Agriculture WEST
This part of the Central Coast is integral to the history of organic agriculture, with the first organic farms popping up in Santa Cruz in parallel to sustainable agriculture research on campus in the 1980s and 1990s. In this WEST activity, we will be using ecological and biological methods to solve the kind of problems that agricultural researchers work on. Students look at how farm management impacts insect pests and their predators, and what this means for sustainable agriculture. Students will explore the 25-acre campus farm and learn what it means for a farm to also be a habitat.

Astro WEST
In the intersection between astrophysics and Earth science, students will explore in depth how the Sun’s light interacts with Earth’s atmosphere to develop a greater understanding of the planet on which we inhabit. Learners will also briefly apply their new understanding from these investigations to other planets beyond Earth. Along the way, students will use conceptual models to interpret and analyze data in an activity modeled after authentic research practices.

Biochem WEST
The diversity of roles that the molecules of life take on is extraordinary considering what they are made up of. This WEST activity will expose learners to several of the many functions of macromolecules, as well as what goes wrong with them to cause disease. Learners will explore the core principles that dictate what they look like and how they operate, while also receiving an opportunity for creativity and developing their biochemical intuition.

Eco WEST
Team up with other students to use the powerful tool of mathematical modeling in ecology to address management decisions centered around invasive and endangered species. Students learn how to formulate multiple management solutions and to predict the outcomes. During these activities, students are introduced to campus culture at UCSC and develop a network of peers.

Participants are placed in one of 4 strands offered, depending on their major interests and space availability:

Agriculture WEST
Astro WEST
Biochem WEST
Eco WEST

PROGRAM DATES
SEPTEMBER 14-16, 2015

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