I hope you all had an awesome summer and are enjoying these last few weeks before school starts again. Much was accomplished this summer. In the spirit of our number driven world, here is a summary of the Hope HHMI program activities “by the numbers”:

- Seven faculty members in five departments utilized HHMI funds to support their research programs this past summer.
- Four faculty members in three departments took the lead on developing courses which embed research experiences for students within the curriculum.
- Assessment efforts focusing on several existing CRE courses made significant progress.
- Sixteen undergraduates carried out research with faculty members, thirteen of whom participated in the research mentor training program.
- The CSI program had it’s biggest summer yet:
  - Nine Hope students worked in the summer program
  - Ten in-service teachers and Hope faculty/staff were engaged
  - Over 200 middle and high school students participated
  - Six community members partnered with CSI

**HHMI Discussion Blog**

The latest postings to the HHMI Discussion blog are about institutional change to achieve student success in STEM, and a discussion about what are the “soft skills” that we see as key to students’ success. We will be using ideas from these articles to kick-start our HHMI lunch discussions this fall.

Remember, you can subscribe to the blog so that as new posts are added, you can get e-mail notification. Just use the subscribe box in the top right corner. If you have resources or ideas to share on this topic, you can either e-mail information to hhmi@hope.edu OR become a blog author for the site.

**HHMI Lunch Discussions**

The first of our HHMI luncheons will be on Tuesday, August 25th. The topic will be promoting first-year student success. We’ve tentatively scheduled meetings throughout the semester:

- Tuesday, August 25th - Student Success in Introductory Courses
- Thursday, September 17th - Sharing Ideas: FYS and STEM Instructors
- October 7th or 8th - Assessment and CRE courses at Hope
- October 28th or 29th - Explore Program update
- Wednesday, November 18th - TBD

**Upcoming Events**

- August 25th: HHMI Luncheon - Promoting First-Year Student Success
- Early September: FACES kick-off reception
- Early September: FACES Coffee Hours
- September 17th: Sharing Ideas: FYS and STEM Instructors

Link to the full Hope HHMI Program Calendar
Invitations for these discussions will be sent out ~two weeks in advance so that you can RSVP. See the [Hope HHMI website](http://hopehhmi.org) for updates.

**HHMI Grant VI Proposal Status**

For the next grant cycle, HHMI is supporting programs that improve access to and success in STEM education for students from non-traditional pathways (first generation college students and/or students transferring from two-year colleges). In early September we will be gathering a wide range of folks together to answer some questions about the current state of affairs at Hope in relation to HHMI’s program goals. We’ll also have many drop-in discussions for division members who want to participate in shaping the program. Stay tuned for more announcements in September.

**CSI + Science Camps transition to Explore Center**

Significant growth in partnerships created an exciting year for the CSI program. Faculty partnered with the CSI team to develop and strengthen curriculum and obtain external grant funding to support those programs. CSI leadership expanded partnerships with external groups to increase participation of Hope students and staff in community events. Additionally, CSI grew its relationships with other Hope programs such as Step Up, CASA and the Hope/Holland Sustainability Institute.

This growth allowed the launch this July of the new Hope Explore Center, which is a reorganization of the successful Hope Summer Science Camp program and the HHMI supported Center for STEM Inquiry. Explore will focus on continued involvement of Hope students in outreach and education efforts while growing its successful community education programs. Join us for an HHMI lunch later this fall to learn more about the new Explore Center.

**FACES at Hope** (Fostering a Community of Excellence in Science)

FACES will hold a kick-off reception and several coffee breaks for FACES students, mentors and faculty in early September. These are opportunities to build community and help welcome our new FACES students. Stay tuned for electronic invitations to these events!

We are planning our programming for the year and are excited to meet new students. We welcome any suggestions, and if you have a speaker coming to your department that would be a good fit to share time and conversation with the FACES group, please let me know. If you have any suggestions or ideas, please contact Anna Bonnema ([bonnema@hope.edu](mailto:bonnema@hope.edu)).