

# NeuroScholars Abroad

Integrating Research and Study Abroad to Increase Student  
Access to High Impact Practices

Presenters: Dr. Cristin Gavin & Matt Gulizia



# Introductions

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Director, Enrollment Management

ISA by Worldstrides



# Undergraduate Research - UAB Neuroscience

## Undergraduate Neuroscience Program

- ~400 students
- Honors STEM major - BS degree, integration of various specialized honors programs at university

## Integration into the curriculum

- Mentored research required as component of the major
- 6 credits over 1-3 semesters (2-3 on average)
- Thesis, presentation as required research product

## Pain Points

- Many pre-professional/pre-graduate students
- Students feel they have to forgo study abroad due to research requirements + pre-health schedule
- Program growth = less mentors

# Undergraduate Research - UAB Neuroscience

## Why partner with EuroScholars

- Combination of high impact practices to best serve students
- Working with EuroScholars streamlines placement, provides support for students while abroad

## Collaboration with university stakeholders

- UAB Study Abroad office facilitates EuroScholar application process
- Students can access scholarships earmarked for study abroad experiences

## Degree alignment

- Mentored research experiences satisfies major requirement, including thesis document, presentation expectation



# High Impact Practices: Research + Study Abroad

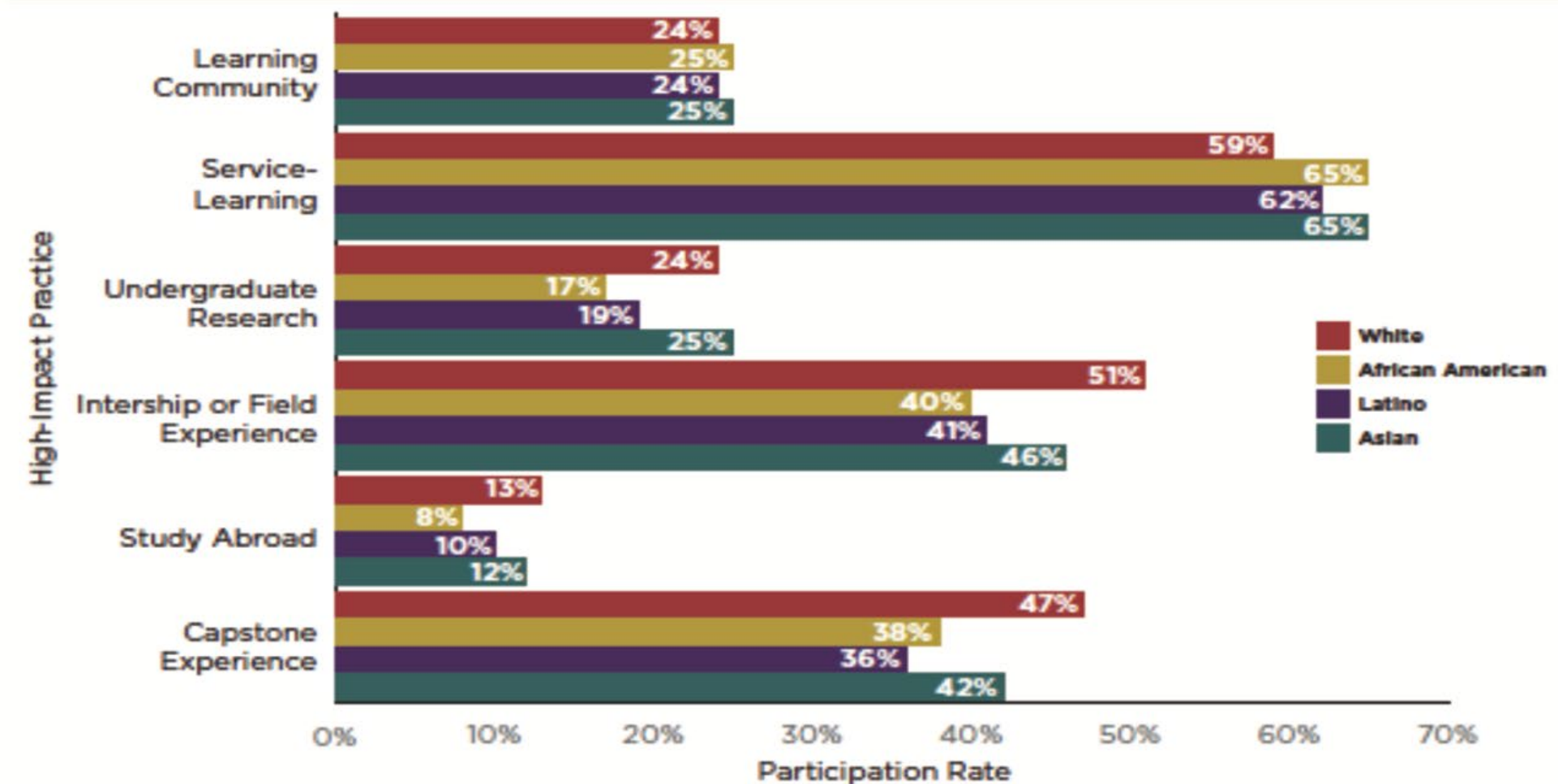
## Why combine HIPs?

- HIPs have the greatest impact on students who are first-gen, low income, or are members of historically underrepresented groups
- Strongest benefits for students participating in 2+ HIPs
  - HIPs at 10 (George Kuh, Ken O'Donnell & Carol Geary Schneide)

## Inequities in Educational Opportunities in College

Students of color are underrepresented in many of the high-impact practices that are central to a high-quality liberal education. These practices teach students to synthesize information, apply knowledge, and develop problem-solving skills—all attributes that are in high demand by employers. And some of these experiences, "such as undergraduate research and internships[,] may constitute critical gateways into graduate education or high-demand and high-wage jobs."<sup>1,3</sup>

### Students of color experience fewer high-impact practices



Source: National Survey of Student Engagement, "NSSE 2013 High-Impact Practices: US Grand Percentages by Student Characteristics," (2013), [http://nsse.iub.edu/2013\\_institutional\\_report/pdf/HIPTables/HIP.pdf](http://nsse.iub.edu/2013_institutional_report/pdf/HIPTables/HIP.pdf). As presented in Witham et al., *America's Unmet Promise*.

# The EuroScholars Program

## Program overview

- Geared toward independent, high achieving undergraduate students
- 1 or 2 semesters at Leiden University, KU Leuven or University of Geneva
- Minimum 3.4 GPA required
- Transfer of academic credits (max. 30 ECTS / 15 US credits per semester).
- Projects available in almost all disciplines
- International research group, all research and deliverables conducted in English
- Elective course (if applicable)



# The EuroScholars Program

## Student profile

- Undergraduate students from US and Canadian universities / colleges
- Highly motivated, proactive, advanced and independent students with a strong interest in an academic / research career

## Accessibility

- Open for all students who meet admissions requirements
- Open to nearly all study disciplines
- EuroScholars Grants/Awards



# The EuroScholars Program

## Program outcomes

- Joint publications
- Hands-on experience in international research practices
- Increased academic maturity
- Improved profile for further academic and career decisions





# Marketing & Approval Support

## Rebranding the program

- Neuroscience students are great candidates for the program at UAB; rebranded it as "NeuroScholars"

## Marketing materials

- Flyers adapted to US/Canadian universities, brochures

## Study abroad fairs

- Our representatives attend to promote and discuss the programs



**NeuroScholars International Research Experience**  
University of Alabama at Birmingham

Thinking about doing international research?

**About EuroScholars**  
EuroScholars is a prestigious semester-long study abroad program

**Participating Institutions:**



# Marketing & Approval

## Support

### Information sessions/presentations

- Neuroscholars session for students. UAB advertised around campus.
- Presented to a Neuroscience seminar; all freshman majors take this course
- Available to present to faculty, administration, etc.

### Peer to peer

- Best recruitment tool; alumni invited to events



# Takeaways

**Ability to tailor marketing and promotion of opportunities to any audience (students, departments)**

**EuroScholars as opportunity to increase undergraduate research participation**

**EuroScholars offers access to HIPs for students with demanding majors**

# Questions?

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