VIP: THE VERTICALLY INTEGRATED PROJECTS PROGRAM

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Abstract: Colorado State University (CSU) recently joined Georgia Tech’s Vertically Integrated Projects (VIP) Consortium through a $5 million grant from The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust to drive systemic reform of STEM education. As my role as Project Manager of the VIP program at CSU, it is my intention to introduce the attendees of the 2015 TILT Summer Conference to the VIP program.

For the lightning talk, I will explain the VIP program expounding on the following information provided on the Georgia tech’s website:

“The Vertically Integrated Projects (VIP) Program joins undergraduate education and faculty research in a team---based environment. Undergraduate VIP students earn academic credits, while faculty and graduate students benefit from the design/discovery efforts of their teams.”

“VIP increases the academic design experience beyond a single semester, with students participating for up to three years. It provides the time and context to learn and practice professional skills, to make substantial contributions, and experience different roles on large multidisciplinary design/discovery teams.”

“The long---term nature of VIP creates an environment of mentorship, with faculty and graduate students mentoring teams, experienced students mentoring new members, and students moving into leadership roles as others graduate. VIP attracts students from many disciplines and enables the completion of large---scale design/discovery projects, strengthening and expanding faculty research portfolios (VIP at Georgia Tech, 2015).”

For the workshop, I will delve deeper into how the program works, what VIP programs are being started in the Fall 2015 semester, and what is required for faculty members, graduate students, and undergraduate students to participate. The goal of participating in the workshop is to get additional faculty involved in VIP especially in the area of educational research.

REFERENCES