

PROGRESS REPORT

*External Evaluation: Neuroscience Research Opportunity to Increase Diversity (NeuroID),
University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras*

Prepared by:

Center for Evaluation and Sociomedical Research

Nicole M. Ortiz Vega, M.S.

Marizaida Sánchez Cesáreo, Ph.D.



Division of Community Services

The Neuroscience Research Opportunity to Increase Diversity (NeuroID) Program recruited the Center for Evaluation and Sociomedical Research (CIES) of the Graduate School of Public Health, University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus to perform a process and outcome evaluation. Founded in 1982, CIES specializes in the evaluation of social programs, applied research on human service organizations, basic research on public health issues, and the development of methods to measure program success. CIES has conducted evaluation and research projects funded by government agencies in the United States and Puerto Rico, as well as by private human service organizations seeking to respond to evaluation questions of importance to improve their policies or programs.

CIES work during this year focused on the development of the NeuroID program's Theory of Change. Additionally, CIES developed and implemented instruments to measure students' satisfaction with the summer workshops experience. CIES is currently working in the development of the program's Logic Model and Evaluation Plan.

Theory of Change

It is a visual diagram that provides a comprehensive picture of the program expected changes to reach as long-term goals. The development of the theory of change included a detailed document, literature review and several meetings with NeuroID program director.

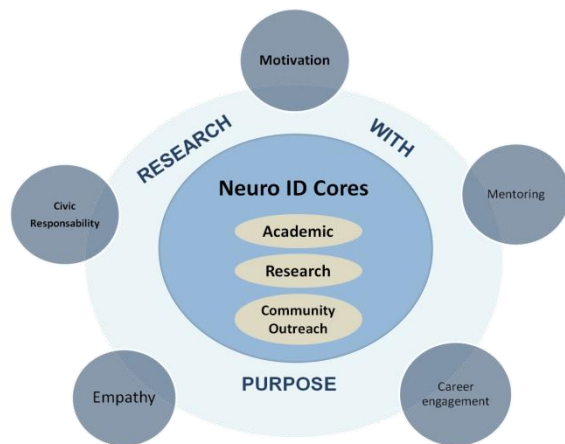


Figure 1. NeuroID is the integration of three training activities (Academic, Research and Community Outreach) embody in the philosophical concept of *Research with Purpose*, having as expected outcomes increase motivation, civic responsibility, empathy and career engagement. This novel approach supplements the formal training program with activities that provide opportunities to engage the community and gain experience on transmitting the acquired knowledge.

Summer Workshops Evaluation

An online questionnaire was implemented to evaluate NeuroID students (N=8) experience and satisfaction with the summer workshops. In general, the majority of the students (85.0%) reported being between 'very satisfied' and 'satisfied' with the activities. Additionally, Figures 2 and Figure 3 present information about students' willingness to pursue research careers.

Fig. 2 How the Graduate School workshop did change willingness to pursue a research career?

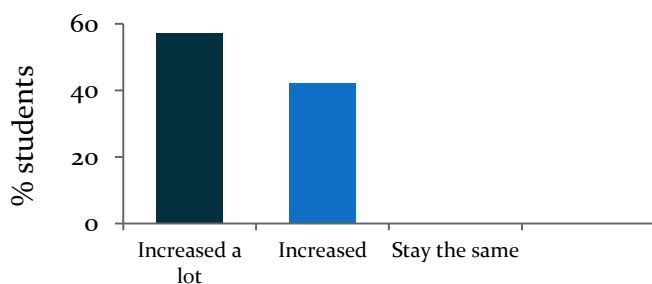


Fig. 3 How the Neuroethics workshop did change willingness to pursue a neuroscience career?

