

Centering Students' Perspectives to Improve Support Given by TEAM-UP Together and AAS

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What is the American Astronomical Society?

Their Mission

- Promote astronomical research and publish scientific results.
- Support education and outreach to increase the understanding of astronomy to the public.
- Advocate for the astronomical sciences to policymakers and the public.



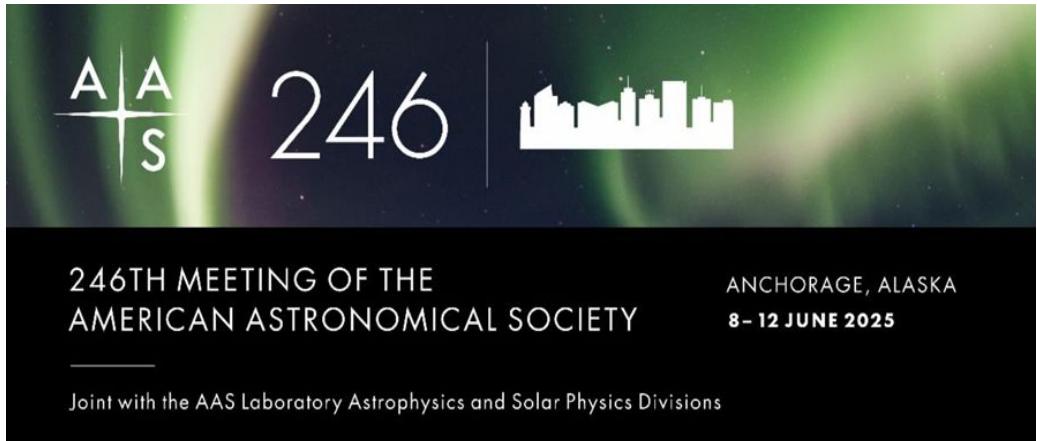
What is TEAM-UP Together?

TEAM-UP Together is a program created to increase the success and graduation rates of underrepresented students in physics and astronomy, especially African American students.





Attending The AAS Conference



This summer, I attended the 246th meeting of the AAS in Anchorage, Alaska.

I interviewed eighteen undergraduate students about their college experience, and their thoughts about the conference.

Student Feedback From the Conference

Successes

- Welcoming and safe environment
- Professors approached students, shared business cards, and offered guidance



Challenges

- Lack of undergraduate-specific programming
- One dedicated event on grad school application tips



Moving Forward





Student Experience Conference

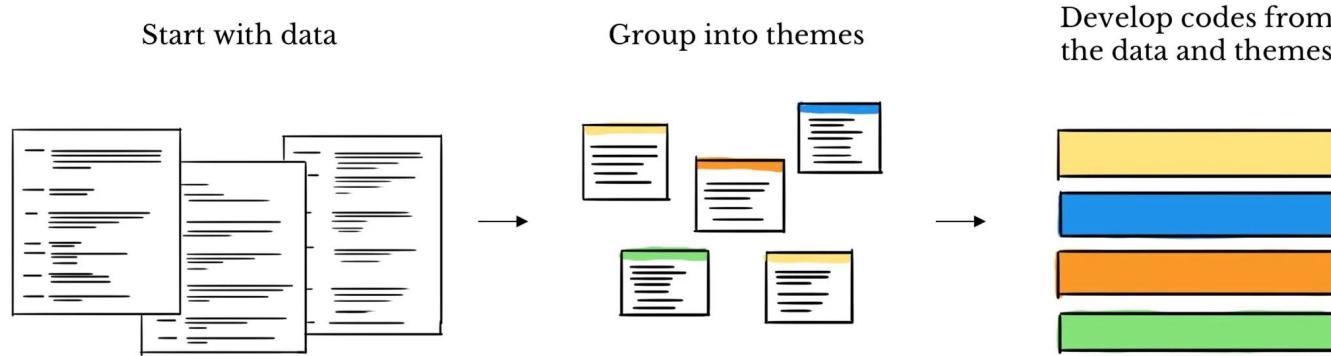
Oct 4-6, 2024
Washington, DC



My Work With TEAM-UP Together and WestEd

Reached out to TEAM-UP Together scholarship recipients to encourage participation in a program survey.

Helped collect and organize survey feedback by coding the responses for easier analysis and reporting.



TEAM-UP Together: Program & Conference Summary

Successes

- Built strong peer connections & sense of belonging
- High satisfaction with scholarship & TUTSEC conference



Challenges & Needs

- More post-undergrad support (grad school transition, funding, job search)
- Expanded networking: virtual events, group chats, alumni connections



The Impact of My Work

Feedback from the AAS Conference Report

- The report on the AAS conference experience highlighted the specific needs of students.

WestEd's Evaluation of TEAM-UP Together

- WestEd's evaluation of the TEAM-UP Together program offers valuable, direct feedback that will be used to strengthen their initiative.

Acknowledgements

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