Southern California
GRE Bootcamps

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A partnership at student & faculty levels
Supported by the UC-HBCU program
http://morehouse.ucsd.edu
Cal-Bridge Program

Pls: Alex Rudolph (Cal Poly Pomona) & Tammy Smecker-Hane (UCI)

Southern California CSUs:
- Bakersfield*
- Channel Islands*
- Dominguez Hills*
- Fullerton*
- Long Beach*
- Los Angeles*
- Northridge*
- Pomona*
- San Bernadino*
- San Diego*
- San Luis Obispo
- San Marcos*

* Designated HSI

25 UC, CSU and community college faculty are collaborating to build a regional Bachelor’s to PhD Bridge program in Astronomy & Physics, leveraging existing programs & networks
The SoCal spur of the NorCal program

- Davis program adopted/adapted in 2011 by Andreas Bill
- 2013 camp organized by Andreas Bill & Chuhee Kwon @CSULB
- Similar structure
  - GRE practice exam
  - workshops (led by graduate students)
  - test-taking strategies
  - presentations by graduate students on research/life
  - presentations by regional faculty on grad programs (recruitment)
Andreas Bill
• 99 registrants (capped), 80 participants
• 16 institutions, roughly half CSUs and UC/others
• 40% of participants URM, most from CSUs
• 28% women, most from CSUs
• slight indication of URMs preferentially registering but not showing up; transportation issues?
Cost/student ≈ $80 (no fee charged)
Income sources
- UC Davis
- CSULB Natural Sciences Dean
Issues to address

• Is this program effective?
  – How do students score on GRE?
  – What is the control statistic?
• Is two days enough? (no) How do we sustain preparation after boot camp?
• Sustainability – contributions from institutions sending students being sought (fee?)
• Is this program big enough?
Test prep:
growth mindset

- Dweck & co.: students who believe intelligence/talent can be developed show:
  - reduced stereotype threat
  - reduced gender/racial disparities
  - improved standardized test scores
  - increased motivation to take on challenges

- Mindset can be changed => non-cog measures can be changed