

What is project SOAR?

STEM Science, Technology, Engineering, Math students with interest in allied health

Organized to develop a Dietetic career pathway

Accessibility for Black Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC) and other underrepresented students to enter the field of Dietetics

Ready to SOAR and rise to reach their goal of becoming a registered dietitian.

What Universities are involved in project SOAR?

Michigan State University

Western Michigan University

University of Michigan

Wayne State University

Grand Valley State University

Who is it for?

Project SOAR will target students who are not knowledgeable of the dietetic profession.

Project SOAR is an essential and necessary community grassroots effort for recruiting BIPOC and underrepresented students.

How is the program evaluated?

Evaluations of Project SOAR STEM students, participants, dietetic program volunteers and other RD's will assess barriers and future challenges that BIPOC and underrepresented students may encounter pursuing a degree and advance training.

Why is it important?

Project SOAR's promotion of the dietetic profession and recruitment efforts of BIPOC and underrepresented students addresses reaching the Michigan Academy of Inclusion, Equity, Diversity and Access (IDEA) strategy goal at the community level.

It is also so important to increase awareness of careers in the field of nutrition and dietetics among students of color. Dietetics has been monochromatic, a predominately white female profession. Based on available data 80% of Registered Dietitian Nutritionists (RDNs) practicing in the US identify as White. There are only 3% Black and 6% Hispanic/Latino Dietitians in the US.

What is the intent?

The intent of Project SOAR is to recruit middle school (eighth grade) BIPOC and underrepresented students who have an interest in allied health and becoming a future dietitian. Project SOAR will also seek to partner with STEM or other academic related programs who offer educational opportunities and success for students from low- income, first generation college and other disadvantaged backgrounds.

How will it do this?

Project SOAR will provide STEM students on career days and or other career events with information about the dietetics profession, coursework, and the National Academy of Nutrition and Dietetic Association requirements on becoming a registered dietitian.