

**PROJECT NAME:**

Building an Alliance for New Careers in STEM (KC-BANCS): A Collaborative Model for the Inclusion of Youth and Veterans with Disabilities

**PROJECT LEAD:**

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**TIMELINE:**

October 2009 – October 2014

**CONTENT AREA:**

Higher Education

**FUNDER:**

The National Science Foundation

**CLIENT:**

University of Missouri – Kansas City (UMKC)

**AUDIENCE:**

Universities, colleges, high schools, industry, and organizations that serve veterans and people with disabilities; along with the Kansas City regional network of existing STEM-related programs.

**RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:**

Mixed (quantitative & qualitative) Methods

**OVERVIEW:**

Project: The overall goal of this project is to increase the participation and success of people with disabilities within the Kansas City region in STEM education pathways. The result will be an increase in students who complete associate and undergraduate degrees and ultimately enter the STEM workforce.

RDI is conducting formative and summative evaluations of the project. RDI works with KC-BANCS program staff to coordinate the collection of disaggregated data on students with disabilities attending the partnering educational institutions the regional network of Veteran serving programs on the number of veterans with disabilities who may be potential KC-BANCS program participants. RDI works with the KC-BANCS staff to identify/develop evaluation survey instruments and procedures for tracking and reporting baseline, progress, and outcome data for participants in the KC-BANCS program. RDI conducts annual lessons learned focus groups and surveys with key informants for all areas of programming. RDI conducts analysis and reporting of evaluation data to KC-BANCS leadership on a semi-annual basis.

The KC-BANCS program is on a trajectory to accomplish its projected first year and long-term outcomes. The program has successfully established: 1) a collaborative leadership structure consisting of a KC-BANCS Leadership Team, an operations team, and a community team; 2) the KC-BANCS Alliance Partnership consisting of community stakeholders from both sides of the Kansas – Missouri border; 3) the KC-BANCS interactive web-site as a community information resource and a home for the Community of Practice online discussion board; and 4) a preliminary process for collecting, storing, and reporting institutional and organizational data on students and veterans with disabilities.

**LINKS:**

<http://www.kcstemalliance.org>

