

Subject: College of Sciences Monday Matters: REYES

Date: Sunday, August 23, 2020 at 9:00:26 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Dodge, Gail

To: Dodge, Gail

CC: Whitfield, Tiffany L.

Dear Colleagues:

Summer 2020 is coming to a close. Before we are consumed with teaching and other activities that keep us too busy in the fall, I want to draw your attention to a phenomenal success from the summer. REYES (Remote Experience for Young Engineers and Scientists) <https://www.odu.edu/reyes> offered courses, guest lectures, panels, and other activities over a range of topics, from Python coding and gaming technologies to coronavirus simulation and solving crimes through entomology. This content was made available for free over a period of eight weeks. More than 7,300 people from 115 countries participated in this summer enrichment program (34% of registrants were from 46 states in the US and 29% were from Mexico).

This program was a collaboration between the College of Sciences and the College of Engineering. Giovanna Genard (Provost's Office) and Raúl Briceño (Physics) were co-chairs of this program and worked long hours to bring this opportunity to life. Alan Meca (Psychology) was chair of the science content subcommittee and Tiffany Whitfield (Dean's Office) also played an important role in organizing REYES. Many faculty in our college, from all seven departments, participated in the programming. Special thanks goes to Ted Rogers (Physics) who co-taught the Python4Physics course along with Raúl twice per week over the course of the entire eight weeks. Also, alumnus, Andrew Dotson, from Physics participated on panels and led activities. Raúl commented to me, "Although REYES was a tremendous amount of work, it was a pleasure to engage with young aspiring scientists from across the world."

Alan has done a preliminary analysis of the post-event evaluation survey and he found that approximately 42% were undergraduates at another institution and 30% were in high school. Prior to attendance, 58% of participants were not familiar at all with ODU, but when asked about their likelihood to attend ODU before and after, participants indicated they were significantly more likely to attend ODU after attending REYES.

I am very grateful to everyone who participated in this remarkable program and I am proud that ODU offered this opportunity to people around the world.

Best Regards,
Gail

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