

Development and Implementation of a Tracking Module for Enhanced RAMS Program Communication

The Research Alliance in Math and Science (RAMS) Program at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) was established to provide rewarding research opportunities among DOE researchers, faculty and students at various colleges and universities. The program is based on the belief that collaborative research experiences among its participants is the best vehicle to identify, encourage, and train a more diverse workforce by providing a positive impact on those who participate in the summer internship program. While the RAMS program has helped produce some of today's leading graduate and doctoral students, maintaining communication with those summer participants has proven difficult resulting in less than optimal ability to pinpoint the direction that many of the students are taking in their careers. In executing a systematic approach to facilitate this task, a database tracking module was developed to communicate with all past, present, and future RAMS participants. This tracking module is intended to continuously and effectively convey the message of the RAMS vision, to encourage and promote Science, Mathematics, Engineering, and Technology (SMET) research to a broad range of diverse populations that comprise the next-generation workforce, and thus, to improve the U.S. competitive research edge. Students can be kept apprised of continuing academic experiences, co-op programs, workshops, and training opportunities provided by DOE and the Laboratory through this vehicle. As part of the module, a listing of core curricula for various research areas in which students may participate at ORNL has been developed to provide guidance for potential students and faculty to better prepare for a successful research experience. This module is expected to be portable and implementable in a variety of research settings.

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