

Strengthening Green Labs Through Education and Community

Jack Rumery, Penn State University
jackery7@psu.edu



Learning Objectives

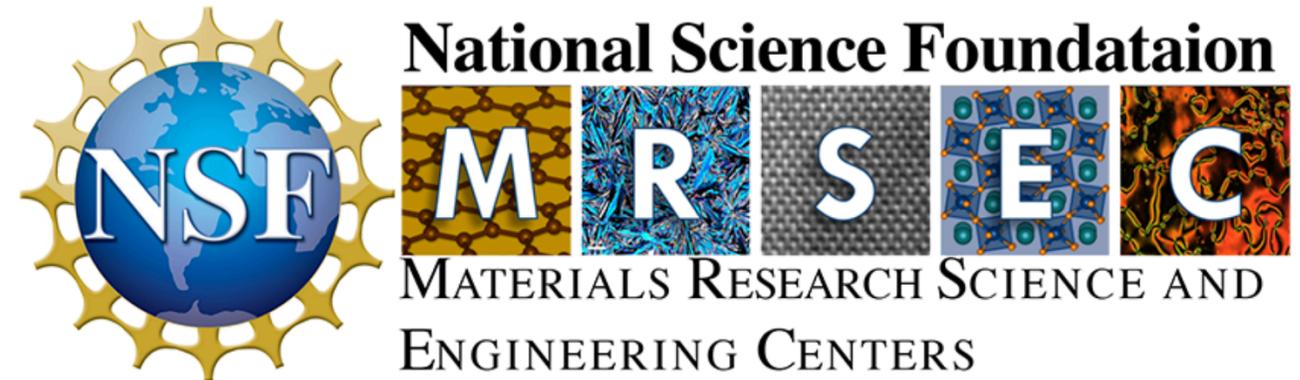
- A.) Describe key support systems for enhancing green lab engagement.
- B.) Identify strategies for building replicable programs.
- C.) Analyze implementation challenges and successes drawing on Penn State's best practices.
- D.) Formulate ideas for integrating structured support systems.



Context: Penn State Sustainable Labs

The sustainable labs program is an innovative approach to advancing sustainable operations in research labs.

By linking education, partnerships, and behavior change, the program empowers researchers to reduce impacts while strengthening a culture of shared responsibility and stewardship of resources.



Leadership Team

"Penn State Sustainability"

Program Administration



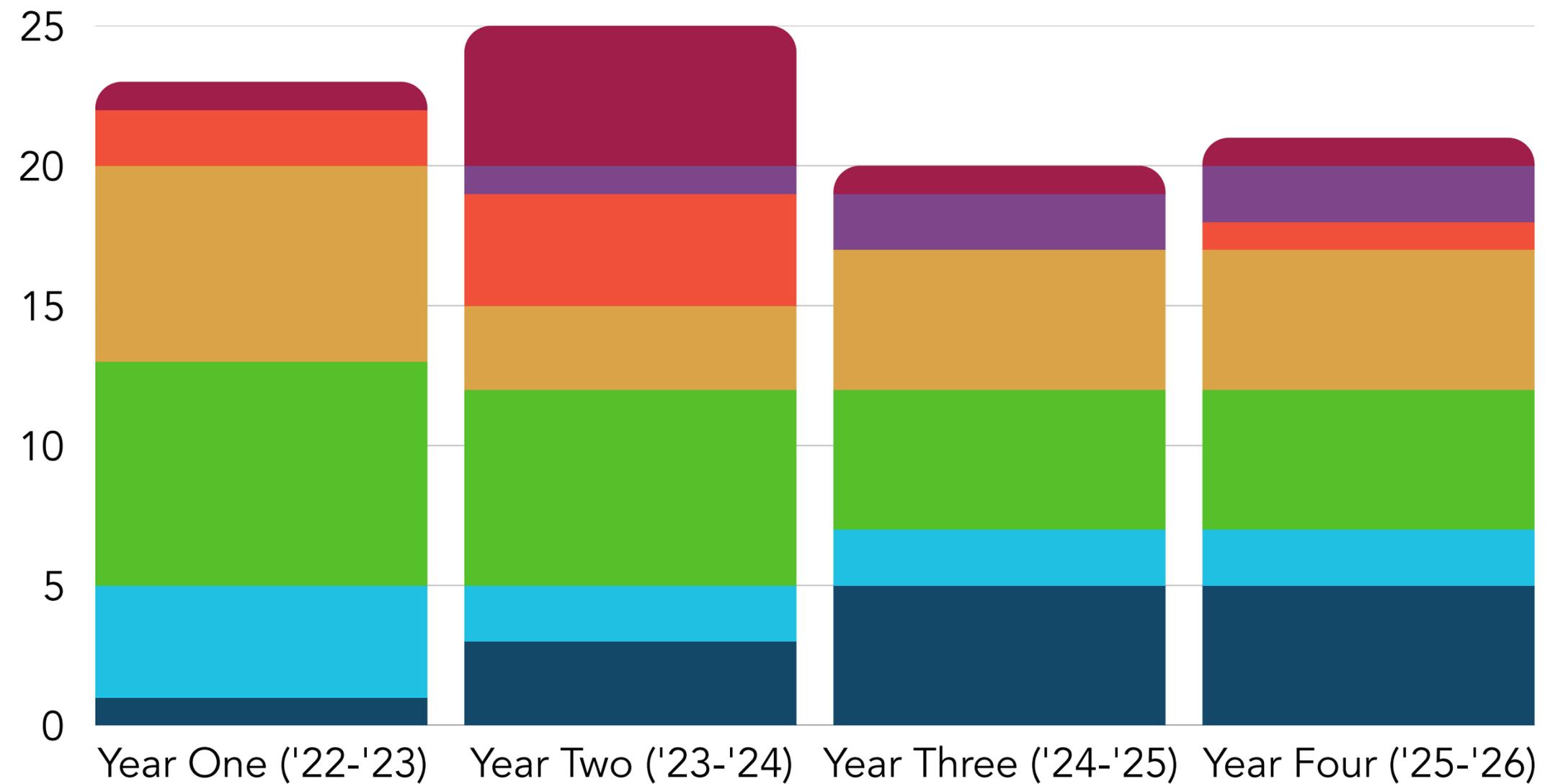
Student Training



Technical Support



Context: Labs



Going Beyond Certification

- How can we meaningfully embed an educational component within the program?
- How can we bring added value to labs interested in being more sustainable?
- What does it look like to have a community of practice?
- What do labs need to be successful and feel supported in their efforts?



Key Structures, Tools, & Partnerships

- Cohort-model of lab enrollment
- Sustainable Lab Consultants
- Incentives
- My Green Lab Certification integration
- I2SL best practices
- Other internal PSU partners
- Other external partners



Enhancing Engagement

- Structured outreach & lab communications
- Leadership team visits and consultation
- Ongoing training & educational opportunities
- Centralized Teams site for engagement and resource sharing

The image displays three promotional posters for Penn State Sustainability Educational Series events. Each poster features a speaker's photo, name, title, and a QR code for registration. The top poster is for 'Fall 2025 Educational Series: Careers in Green Labs' featuring Steve Vitale, Green Lab Program Manager at GSK, on Wednesday, October 23rd at 2:30 PM. The middle poster is for 'Fall 2024 Educational Series: Principles of Green Chemistry' featuring Thomas Larrabee, Senior Chemical Hygiene Officer at Penn State EH&S, on Friday, October 25th from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM on Zoom. The bottom poster is for 'Fall 2025 Educational Series: Sustainability in Central Procurement' featuring Meg Harpster and Genia Harpster from Penn State Procurement, on Wednesday, October 8th from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM on Zoom. All posters include the Penn State Sustainability logo and a 'REGISTER HERE' button with a QR code. A small disclaimer at the bottom of the bottom poster reads: 'THIS PUBLICATION IS AVAILABLE IN ALTERNATIVE MEDIA ON REQUEST. PENN STATE ENCOURAGES QUALIFIED PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES TO PARTICIPATE IN ITS PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES. IF YOU ANTICIPATE NEEDING ANY TYPE OF ACCOMMODATION OR HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PHYSICAL ACCESS PROVIDED, PLEASE CONTACT JACKERY7@PSU.EDU IN ADVANCE OF YOUR PARTICIPATION OR VISIT. UBR OPP-25-04'.

Fall 2025 Educational Series
Careers in Green Labs

FEATURING
STEVE VITALE
GREEN LAB PROGRAM MANAGER
GSK

REGISTER HERE

Fall 2024 Educational Series
Principles of Green Chemistry

FEATURING
THOMAS LARRABEE
SENIOR CHEMICAL HYGIENE OFFICER
PENN STATE EH&S

REGISTER HERE

Friday October 25th
11:00am-12:00pm on Zoom

Fall 2025 Educational Series
Sustainability in Central Procurement

FEATURING
MEG HARPSTER & GENIA HARPSTER
PENN STATE PROCUREMENT

REGISTER HERE

Wednesday, October 8th
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. on Zoom

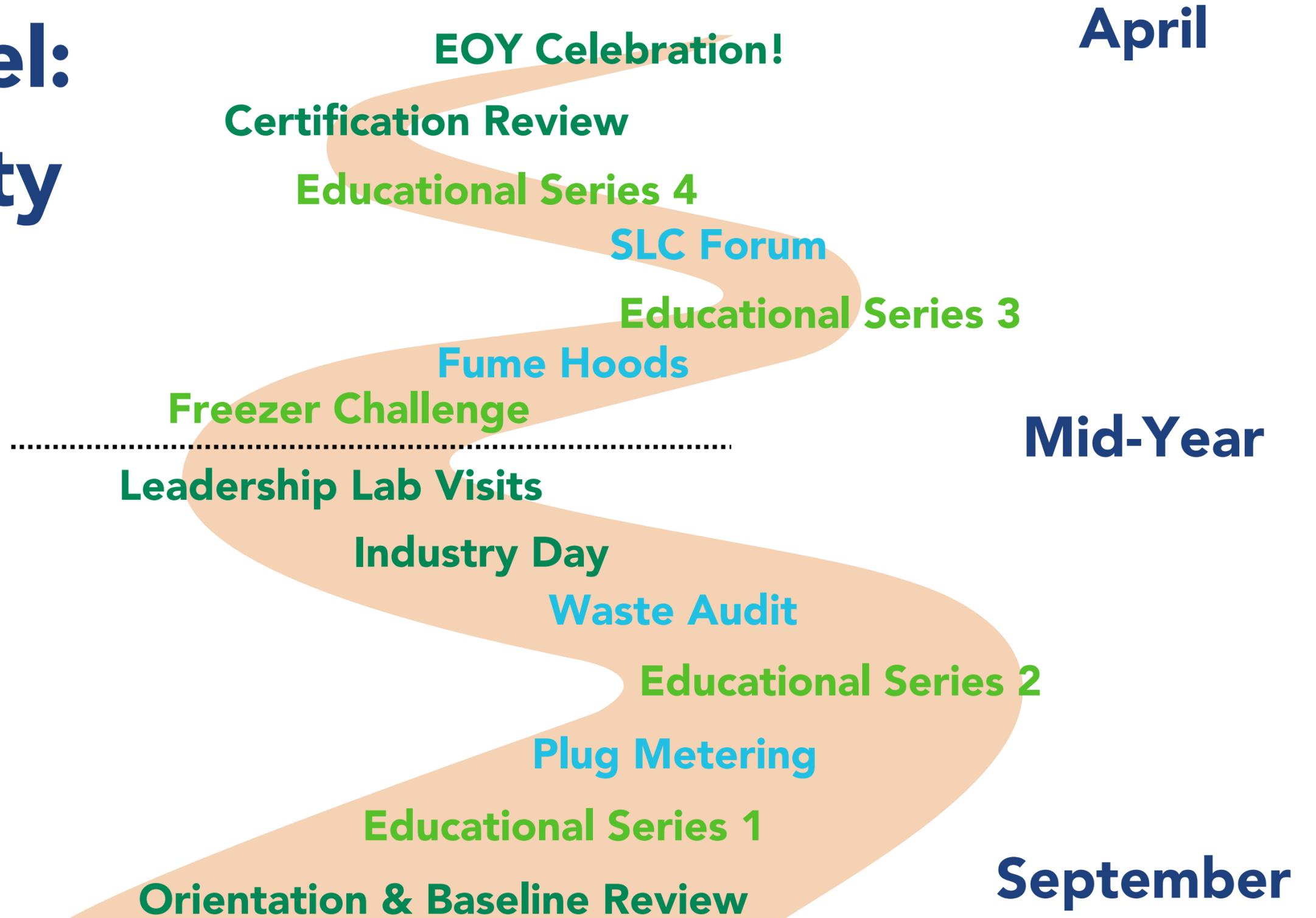
THIS PUBLICATION IS AVAILABLE IN ALTERNATIVE MEDIA ON REQUEST.
PENN STATE ENCOURAGES QUALIFIED PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES TO PARTICIPATE IN ITS PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES. IF YOU ANTICIPATE NEEDING ANY TYPE OF ACCOMMODATION OR HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PHYSICAL ACCESS PROVIDED, PLEASE CONTACT JACKERY7@PSU.EDU IN ADVANCE OF YOUR PARTICIPATION OR VISIT.
UBR OPP-25-04

Cohort Model: Accountability & Structure

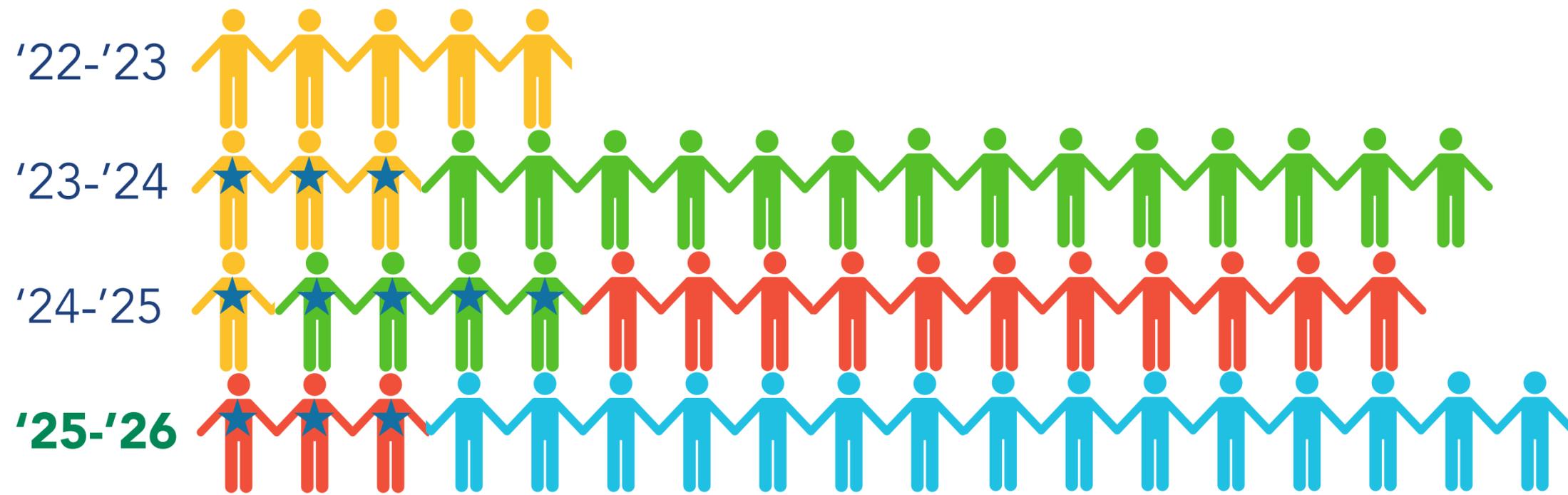
General Program
Components

Educational
Supplements

SLC Program



Trained Undergraduates (SLCs)



★ Senior/returning SLCs play a peer mentoring/leadership role.

'25-'26 cohort includes 3 returning SLCs, and students representing 11 majors across 6 colleges.



Challenges & Successes

- Feedback from students and labs
- Leadership buy-in
- High participation rates

- The luxury and limits of funding
- Implementation challenges
- Program fit



Challenges & Successes

“ My experience training in and working with lab sustainability over the past year and a half with Krista Bailey and (former staff member) Nagwa Elnwishy has been the single most impactful and insightful experience I’ve received in my college education so far. **”**

-Gavin Maxson (Three-Time SLC)



Learning Objectives Revisited

A.) Key support systems: Structured year, clear internal partnerships and objectives.

B.) Strategies for replication: Cohort model viability, student support opportunities.

C.) Challenges and successes: Feedback, funding, fit.

D.) Formulating ideas: Existing ecosystems of support.



Questions?

Jack Rumery, Penn State University
jackery7@psu.edu

