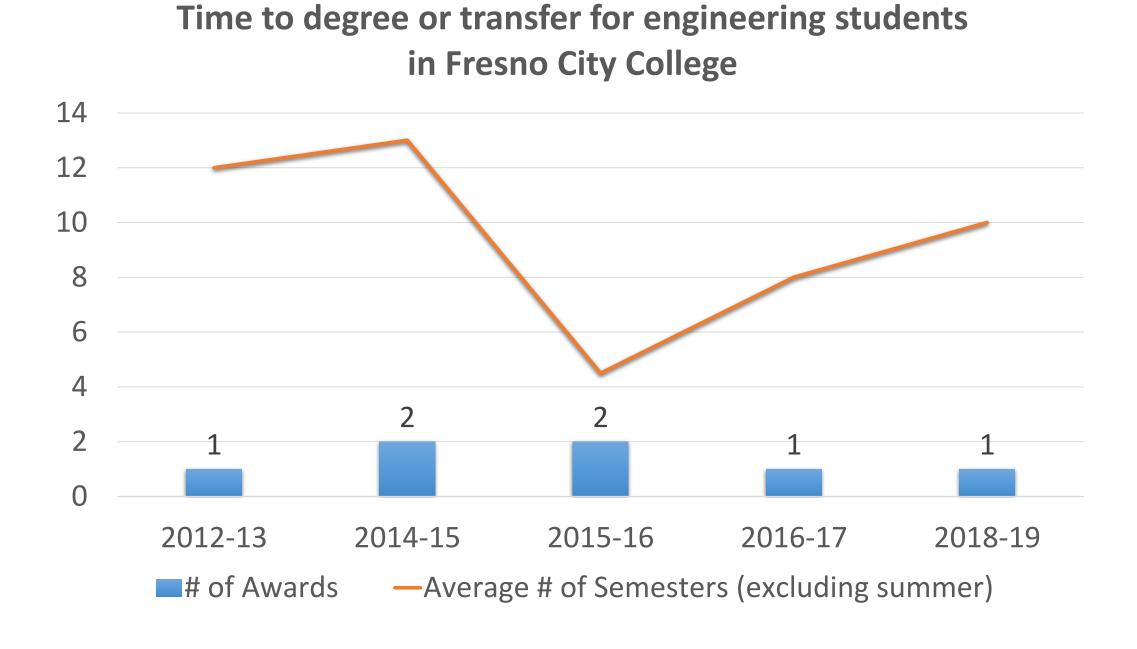
### Enhancing the Transfer Experience through a Collaborative Cohort Program for Fresno City College Engineering Scholars: Design of Concrete Mixtures using Alternative Aggregates Fariborz M. Tehrani<sup>a</sup>, Nell Papavasiliou<sup>b</sup>, Elizabeth Adams<sup>b</sup>, Claire Dancz<sup>c</sup> Shirley McManus<sup>b</sup>, Jesus Larralde<sup>a</sup>, David Shoemaker<sup>b</sup>, Nancy Guitierrez-Sauceda<sup>b</sup>, Mark Kerfoot<sup>b</sup>, Matt Woods<sup>b</sup>, Travis McDonald<sup>b</sup>, David Balogh<sup>b</sup>, Karen Willis<sup>b</sup>

## Abstract

The Fresno City College Engineering Scholars program conducted research on concrete mix design in conjunction with the Fresno State Lyles College of Engineering, Department of Civil and Geomatics Engineering. The purpose of the project is to broaden the participation of community college students in engineering research and practice. The experiential learning approach of the project in the first phase involved the design of concrete mixtures using alternative aggregates; lightweight expanded clay (LECA) and high-density polyethylene aggregate (HDPE). Characteristics of these materials were evaluated and taken into account in the design. This work resulted in the production of small concrete cylinders of concrete for testing in future phases. Throughout the project, sociological factors were considered. These topics included ethics in engineering, documentation, and quality control practices.

### **Research Questions**

- does participation in collaborative cohort • How experience contribute to students' membership within a STEM community?
- In what ways do students use community membership to construct their own STEM identity?



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