

Exploring iPad Utility with an Underrepresented Student Research Program

Dr. Scott Hamm, Dr. Jason Morris, Mr. Chris Munn



ACU : ABILENE
CHRISTIAN
UNIVERSITY

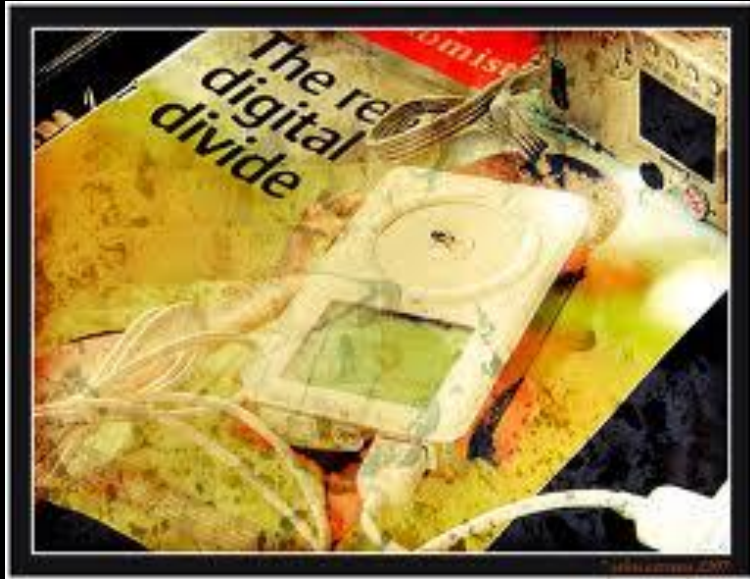
McNair Scholars Program

federally funded program housed at approximately 180 Colleges and Universities around the U.S

focus on undergraduate research

Applicants must be, first-generation, low-income, from groups underrepresented in graduate study





ACU : ABILENE
: CHRISTIAN
: UNIVERSITY

According to a U.S. Department of Education Institute of Education Sciences Report in 2006....

Computer and Internet use are divided along demographic and socioeconomic lines. Use of both technologies is higher among Whites than among Blacks and Hispanics. Students living with more highly educated parents are more likely to use these technologies than those living with less well educated parents, and those living in households with higher family incomes are more likely to use computers and the Internet than those living in lower income households.”



Five forms of inequality
were suggested

technical means
autonomy
skill
social support
purpose

*Hispanics and the Digital
Divide: An Analysis of the
Adoption Rates of
Communication and
Entertainment Devices.*, Galvez
& Youngblood

ACU : ABILENE
CHRISTIAN
UNIVERSITY

Purpose of Study

capture the uses of an iPad for first generation, low income students in an undergraduate research program.

does access to iPad increases connectivity to an underrepresented population

Do students spend more time doing the tasks of research with an iPad



ACU : ABILENE
CHRISTIAN
UNIVERSITY



ACU : ABILENE
CHRISTIAN
UNIVERSITY

Data Collection

To help determine if the iPad serves as a useful research tool, we....

- Provided an orientation for students on how to use the iPad
- Regular meetings to explore apps useful to the research process
- Post-research usage survey
- Presentation on iPad for use in underrepresented populations.

Initial Findings

The McNair Research Institute

Rising juniors and seniors participate in a twenty-five (25) week **Research Institute** that provides experience in research techniques, research writing, data analysis, and research computer skills

McNair Research Institute participants work closely with a faculty mentor during the Research institute

McNair Scholars are encouraged to submit a graduate level research paper and make an oral presentation

