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The University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez (UPRM) has established, through NASA Grant number NCC5-340, the Partnership for Spatial and Computational Research (PaSCoR). The main goal of this 5-year project is to strengthen academic programs and integrate research at the undergraduate level in various science, math and engineering/technology (SMET) disciplines. One of the major components of this project is the integration of undergraduate research experiences that spawn the whole curriculum and start during the freshman years. The kick-off activity that initiates students in to our RS/GIS curriculum and research is the Summer Station Workshop. The main objectives of this initiative are:

- To motivate and train first year undergraduate students from SMET disciplines in skills that will encourage them to pursue research in RS/GIS
- To familiarize them with the technology of RS/GIS
- To recognize the importance of RS/GIS
- To identify RS/GIS applications
- To interact with private and federal agencies using the technology in the workplace
- To develop team work and communication skills, and,
- To initiate a mentor relation with upper-level PaSCoR students and researchers

This presentation will describe the strategies implemented to promote skills and knowledge required by the students to advance in this emerging field. It will also address the assessment process to document an outcomes and student centered initiative.