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West Virginia University Institute of Technology (WVU Tech) will host a summer research camp in its campus at Beckley, WV with support from First2 Network. The camp will host 10 first-generation college students and other underrepresented students in STEM from July 19 to August 1. Students will reside in the university dorm for the two weeks and will be actively be involved in research, learn about the university, the local society and other important aspects of the university. Students interested in Computer Science, Information Systems, Computer or Electrical engineering will work with faculty and student mentors on selected projects and present their results at the end. These students will work in developing programs or apps in virtual or augmented reality, inventory management, and computer-assisted optimization of solar cells.

This is a valuable opportunity for the students as well as the university to understand the expectation of the students and to learn how to motivate students for retention. IRB approved and First2Network evaluated surveys will be collected from the students, mentors, and faculties to measure their experience with the camp. The project results and student understanding during this period will also be evaluated. This experience and the survey results will help us design our university program in a way that can help all the diverse students to succeed and advance in a STEM career.

The students will be contacted later to check if the experience helped them in their university life and if there were any suggestions for improvement.