1077-VL-492 **Heather A Bullen, Kristi L Haik** and **Gail Mackin*** (macking@nku.edu). Project SOAR: Providing Low-Income, First-Generation, Underrepresented STEM Students Comprehensive Support for Success.

Northern Kentucky University is the recipient of a National Science Foundation (NSF) S-STEM funded program entitled Project SOAR: Scholarships, Opportunities, Achievements and Results. The goal of Project SOAR is to recruit, retain, and graduate a cohort of at-risk students in STEM disciplines through community building, intensive mentoring and specially designed course-loads. Results in the first three years include: 43% of newly recruited SOAR students are underrepresented in STEM disciplines; elevated rates in retention and GPA of SOAR students; nearly 50% of rising SOAR sophomores participate in summer research. The structure and success of Project SOAR will be discussed. (Received September 04, 2011)