Our computer laboratory provides support and encouragement to students from underrepresented groups interested in careers in mathematics, science, and mathematics education. The laboratory is housed in the Mathematics Learning Center (MLC), which comes under the administration of the Office of Learning Support Services (OLS). The Center has provided classroom instruction and laboratory support for the past twenty years. The majority of its clients have been and remain women, students of color, and persons with disabilities.

The laboratory computer laboratory serves two primary purposes: 1) It provides a center where students from underrepresented groups learn to explore and solve mathematical problems with the aid of the computer, faculty and tutors. Each week in the targeted classes, problems are assigned which illustrate basic ideas and techniques described in the formal lecture period. With adequate equipment and software, the staff of the MLC support students as they work on these problems. 2) It provides a facility where students work in groups or individually in a setting that encourages more student-student and instructor-student interaction. Students have come to regard the MLC as a safe place where the staff is experienced in teaching mathematics to various ethnic groups.

With the NSF funds and matching ones from the institution, we were able to network 18 Macintosh Computers, a server, and two printers. We also have an LCD display and an overhead projector.

Software used includes: Minitab, LOGO, Maple, Calculus TL, PCSolve.