UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH CONFERENCE

The seventh annual LSU Undergraduate Research Conference showcased over 100 students from twelve institutions. HHMI Investigator, Dr. Squire Booker from The Pennsylvania State University, gave the keynote address on his exciting research titled, “A Radical Approach to Antibiotic Resistance.” This year we explored Yesterday’s Fiction, Today’s Fact where our three panelists, Drs. Jon Cogburn, Isiah Lavender, and Brygg Ullmer, engaged in a candid discussion on technological offspring. Moderated by McNair Research Scholars Program Director, Joe Givens, the panel explored the science behind cyborgs, androids, and technological singularity as well as the ethical implications of a post-human existence. We appreciate the support from all administrators, faculty, staff, and participants. For more information visit www.lsu.edu/urc.

NIH BRIDGES TO THE BACCALAUREATE PROGRAM

On October 26th, thirty faculty and staff members from Baton Rouge Community College (BRCC) and LSU participated in a workshop on classroom innovation. This is one component of an ongoing Bridges-sponsored partnership between BRCC and LSU faculty members who teach introductory math and science courses. The partnership’s goal is to increase student engagement, learning, and retention.

Dr. Mary Miller is Bridges co-Principal Investigator, Undergraduate Research Liaison, and Assistant Professor of Biology at BRCC. She shared her Bridges-sponsored experience in Yale University’s Small World Initiative, through which she has successfully retained, trained, and inspired BRCC students by integrating research into her microbiology course.

Dr. Bill Wischusen, Associate Professor of Biology at LSU, challenged us to consider how we prepare students “to be successful in a future that is unknown” and to develop skill sets that make them adaptable to new ideas and professions. He also discussed LSU’s focus on faculty development and its integration with student development.

Participants then discussed potential innovations in their disciplinary courses. They also received an update on other aspects of the Bridges program, including the recent successes of our current and former Bridges Research Scholars.

LSU UPWARD BOUND PROGRAM

LSU Upward Bound hosted a Parent Night titled “Treat Yourself” in late October, and it was a huge success. Emily Burris Hester from Student Life and Enrollment presented information on Financial Literacy and Budgeting. Fun filled games, a Halloween inspired photo booth, yummy treats, and fun door prizes were provided to give the parents an opportunity to have fun and network with one another and LSU Upward Bound staff. The event was so successful that a follow-up session was instantly requested by attendees after Dr. Gloria Thomas’s closing address. LSU Upward Bound staff will work diligently to hold another Parent Night in the spring. Thank you to all who helped.

TOP PRESENTERS

Seventeen OSI Scholars presented their work at the LSU Undergraduate Research Conference on November 6th. Three placed in the competition. Joseph Gombeda (pictured left) received first place for his Level 1 poster presentation in engineering and technology. Andrew Oliver and Jasmine Jones placed first and second, respectively, in the math and physical sciences category for their oral presentations.

Six OSI Scholars also gave poster presentations at the 2015 Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS) in Seattle, WA on November 14th. Baton Rouge Community College and OSI NIH Bridges to the Baccalaureate students, Ryan LeBlanc and Meagan Moore each earned awards at ABRCMS for presenting their neuroscience research projects with LSU Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences, Dr. Ryo Teruyama. Click here to read the recent press release.

ONLINE RESOURCES

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