

March 9, 2009

ASU students compete at FGLSAMP EXPO 2009

The University of Miami in Miami, Fla., hosted the 16th annual Florida-Georgia Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (FGLSAMP) EXPO 2009 Feb. 26-March 1.

FGLSAMP is a coalition of 13 institutions, including Albany State University, committed to significantly increasing the number of undergraduate degrees awarded in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) areas.

The FGLSAMP Expo brings together STEM students, faculty, governmental and industrial organizations, and graduate school representatives to share in stimulating, informative and engaging sessions. Expo 2009 featured oral and poster presentations, academic enhancement workshops, laboratory tours and a host of other networking activities.

Forty-five Albany State STEM students and faculty members attended the conference. This number included 10 Darton College MESA participants and their adviser. There were a total of 110 oral and poster presentations at the event, with 23 students presenting from Albany State and one from Darton College.

Connie Leggett, director for Title III programs and FGLSAMP coordinator at Albany State, stated, "We are extremely proud of all of the presenters, especially those who were named as winners. These students are realizing their potential through the inclusion of research in their undergraduate experience. It is also rewarding to see the fruits of funded research projects like FGLSAMP and HBCU-UP that provided opportunities for most of these students to gain these experiences with faculty on the ASU campus. They are also to be congratulated."

FGLSAMP is funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and seeks to influence positively the number of STEM bachelor's degree recipients entering STEM graduate programs.

Through an initiative funded by NSF, FGLSAMP has established the "Bridge to the Doctorate" at Florida State University, University of South Florida and the University of Florida, which currently supports 60 scholars pursuing STEM Ph.D. degrees.

The ASU winners in oral presentations were:

- Computer Science, first place: Carl White (presenter), Jamaz Hall (presenter) and Courtney White, "Building Lego Mindstorms Nxt-G Robots to Enhance Problem-Solving Skills of Programmers," Preceptor – Prof. Gwendolyn Campbell
- Mathematics, second place: Stephanie Loggins, "Logistic Regression Analysis for Obesity," Preceptor – Dr. Mohammed Talukder

The ASU winners in poster presentations were:

- Mathematics, second place: Felicia Griffin, "A Study of Two statistical Process Control Problems Arising in Healthcare," Preceptor – Dr. Zephyrinus Okonkwo
- Chemistry, second place: Cassandra Skaggs, "Using Light to Switch Wettability: Photochromic Spiropyran Polymer Brushes Fabricated by Free Radical Polymerization," Preceptor – Dr. Jason Locklin (University of Georgia)



Photo caption

Albany State University students who took home awards at the recent FGLSAMP EXPO 2009 were (from left) Stephanie Loggins, Felicia Griffin, Courtney White, Cassandra Skaggs, Jamaz Hall, Kerestin Goodman and Carl White.