



Albany State University MARC to BRIDGE Program

**2014 – 2015 MARC Scholar
Le'Aaricka Hodge**

I was born and raised in Douglas, Georgia, which is small town in the south-eastern portion of the state. As a child I did not know any African American women in STEM fields (Science, Technology, Engineering, or Mathematics). It was not until my sophomore year of high school, when I moved to the Gwinnett area, that I was inspired by my biology teacher, Mrs. Fye, to pursue science. Upon my arrival at Albany State University I set a clear goal: I would graduate from a four-year university with a bachelor's degree in biology.

I am a junior at Albany State University, majoring in Biology. I have a 3.38 GPA. I am a member of several organizations on the ASU campus. I was a volunteer tutor in the department of Natural Sciences, a member of S.A.S.S.—which is a mentoring program on campus—, a member of the Velma Fudge Grant Honors Program, and several other organizations. I am also a Maximizing Access to Research Careers (MARC) scholar.

I am very busy at ASU, both socially and academically, which is why the MARC program is so important. The stipend I receive through the MARC program allows me to be a well-rounded student. However MARC does not just provide me with financial support, the program also introduces me to different opportunities, such as hands-on workshops and travel to conferences, all making me a better candidate for graduate school. Earning a PhD after leaving ASU will grant me the ability to pursue a career in research.

My plan is to enter the field of pharmacology. After participating in a 10-week summer internship at the University of Kentucky's College of Pharmacy I have a true interest in this field of study. With the help of the MARC program which gives me access to GRE prep and networking opportunities I will be able to achieve my goals.

