

**WV-INBRE Provides Biomedical Research Opportunities to HSTA Scholars During the Academic School Year**

The partnership between WV-INBRE and the Health Sciences Technology Academy (HSTA) program is focused on encouraging undergraduate students to pursue biomedical research opportunities. Those who have demonstrated an interest in biomedical research through their participation in the HSTA program while in high school are eligible to participate in this program.

WV-INBRE funds select students to further develop their interest in biomedical research once they enroll at West Virginia University, Marshall University or one of the Primarily Undergraduate Institutions (PUIs).

During the 2015-2016 academic year, 11 HSTA scholars were selected to participate in this program as WV-INBRE student interns. Seven student interns are participating at the PUIs, 3 interns at Marshall University, and 1 intern at West Virginia University.

The seven student interns at the PUIs are: Malcolm Lee, working with Dr. Yi Charlie Chen at Anderson-Broadus University; Maya Patterson and Nikole Smalls, working with Dr. Tesfaye Belay at Bluefield State College; Jillian Mayle, working with Dr. Albert Magro at Fairmont State University; Franklin Lyons, working with Dr. Rebecca Linger at University of Charleston; and Jenna Ingram and Anna

Gaughenbaugh, working with Dr. Joseph Horzempa at West Liberty University.

The three student interns at Marshall University are: Shakira Bowman working with Dr. Monica Valentovic; Amber Bryant working with Dr. Sandrine Pierre; and Mikayla Buchanan working with Dr. Nalini Santanam. One student intern, Melissa Ashman, is working with Dr. Paul Chantler at West Virginia University.

All student interns will present the results of their research projects at the 15th Annual WV-INBRE Summer Research Symposium in Morgantown WV on July 25, 2016.

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**WV-INBRE Faculty Research Development Awards for 2015-2016**

This year we were able to make five Faculty Research Development Awards to faculty at four different undergraduate institutions.

Dr. Rebecca Linger of the University of Charleston received funding for her project "Protein expression and enzymatic analysis of

*Burkholderia cenocepacia* Lp". Dr. Albert Magro of Fairmont State University was funded for his project entitled "Degradation of complement components by MMPs in apoptotic glioblastoma cells", and Dr. Melanie Sal of West Virginia Wesleyan for her project "Effects of alternative media formulations

on growth of *Borrelia burgdorferi*". Two faculty members from West Liberty University were funded. Dr. Deanna Schmitt for her project "the mechanism of action of resazurin, a novel antibiotic", and Dr. Natalia Omelchenko for her project entitled "Effect of nicotine on neural tube development".

**WV-INBRE Travel Awards**

WV-INBRE has provided funding for four undergraduates to attend and present the results of their WV-INBRE sponsored research at the 2015 Southeast IDeA Conference, November 11-13, in Biloxi, Mississippi. Three students from West Liberty University were funded. Ms. Rebecca Barnes presented on "The role of the erythrocyte cytoskeleton protein spectrin during

invasion by *Francisella tularensis*.", Mr. Devin Sindeldecker on "The Role of FTL\_0129 in the Invasion of Erythrocytes by *Francisella tularensis*", and Ms Leah Figsurski on "Bone marrow-derived mesenchymal stem cells and preadipocytes cultured with breast tumor cells favor cytokine secretion". Ms. Kristin Brown of Bluefield State College presented on her

research entitled "Improved Immune Function and Reduced Chlamydia Genital Infection in a Murine Stress Model Fed with Active Hexose Correlated Compound". This was a wonderful opportunity for undergraduates to attend and participate in a regional scientific conference.

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