



Research is Key for OKAMP-SMET Scholars

INTERNS REPORT DIVERSE EXPERIENCES

This past summer many OKAMP Scholars took full advantage of flexible Research Internship Program guidelines and traveled to new and different work sites. Although most research Scholars still arrange projects within the state, some of the more adventuresome Scholars found opportunities in North Carolina, New Mexico and even Germany.

Biochemistry Senior, Latasha Vick investigated "Structural Functional Studies of the Antimicrobial Peptide, PR39" in the Department of Immunology, at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. The SPGRE Program at Chapel Hill is typical of early research-oriented initiatives designed to interest college juniors in graduate school.

Adrian L. Casias, Engineering, at Sandia National Laboratories this summer in the Process Engineering Department in Albuquerque, NM, completed a project entitled, "Investigating a New Etching and Polishing Process for the Large Flange and Associated Parts in the Production of the MC4277 Neutron Tubes".

Marita Sanchez, Engineering Technology, accepted a career exploration internship in summer 1998 at Los Alamos Laboratories that led to an ongoing project. Marita was also selected for participation in the "Pipeline Initiative" through the facility.

At the Technical University of Munich, Germany, Sandra McNeil combined a traditional Engineering Program Coop assignment with an OKAMP Internship award to gain a "value-added" experience studying the use of co-contraction and N-lets for the development of new control strategies for neuroprosthetic devices.

OKAMP Campus Directors encourage interns with research experience to seek creative arrangements with OKAMP and other sites such as National Laboratories in Oak Ridge, Tenn.; Argonne, Ill; Los Alamos, NM;



Albuquerque, NM; Many major research universities offer research experiences through graduate college recruitment programs. Research-oriented projects can often be negotiated through internship program participation in private industry. More information on any of these avenues can be found at institutional WWW sites.

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At Salish-Kooteni College, Pablo, Mt.

Front, l-r: Earl Mitchell, Lisa Fields, Acacia Bender.
Back: Judy Batson.

INTERNS ATTEND NATIONAL CONFERENCE IN MONTANA

July 17-20, 1998, AMP researcher interns from around the country converged to share the results of their research. The 1998 National AMP Research Conference (ARC), held at Pablo, Montana, was hosted by Salish-Kooteni College of the All Nations Alliance for Minority Participation. Dr. Joseph McDonald and Dr. Judy Gobert were the official hosts. Also in attendance were several National Science Foundation officials, including AMP Program Director, Dr. A. James Hicks and HRD Division Director, Dr. Roosevelt Calbert.

Scholars representing Oklahoma were Nikita Watts, East Central University (ECU) and Lisa Fields and Acacia Bender, Oklahoma State University (OSU). Earl Mitchell,



Program Director Earl Mitchell and Judy Batson, Program Manager, attended the Program Directors meetings in Polson, Montana, earlier in the week.

Kathy Niblett, Campus Coordinator at East Central University (ECU) and Nikita Watts, 1998 ECU OKAMP graduate, enjoyed a geology tour, a boat ride on Flat-Head Lake in addition to attending workshops and viewing the many poster and oral research presentations at the ARC.

Nikita Watts, Kathy Niblett and Judy Batson attend a community Pow-wow.

News Briefs

- OKAMP-SMET exceeded projected graduation goals for 1998. There were 410 underrepresented minorities awarded degrees in science, mathematics, engineering and technology fields this year. The baseline in 1995 was 214; 374 was projected.
- In October, a proposal for a \$4,989,772, Phase II award was submitted to the National Science Foundation. In Phase II, OKAMP proposes to focus on improving transition from two-year to four-year institutions, direct preparation for graduate study and transition to graduate programs and increasing successful preparation for teaching while earning a baccalaureate degree in a science or math discipline.
- This past summer, Dr. Carl Rutledge, East Central University, met with Seminole State College Science Head, Dr. Gerhard Laule, to develop a cooperative plan to prepare SSC students for transfer to OKAMP research and mentoring programs at ECU.
- OKAMP joins EPSCoR, the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research, in recruiting high school juniors and seniors for a multistate Conference on Science and Mathematics. The 2-day conference to be held March 25-27 in Lawrence, Kansas is designed to provide underrepresented minorities with information about developing science-related interests, learning more about science fields, and preparing for college. **Contact OKAMP at 405-744-7799 for an application form.**

RESEARCH DAY AT THE STATE CAPITOL

What do government and politics have to do with advancing science, mathematics, engineering and technology? OKAMP interns who participated in research day at the capitol can tell you that legislators are very interested in the progress of their college-going constituents. OKAMP scholars, Joanne Stevenson, Langston University and Jodi Jones, Oklahoma State University were selected to present posters for their institution at a poster session in the rotunda. This was the first research day devoted to research done by undergraduate students. During breaks between sessions, many congressmen scurried to visit with interns.

The Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) and the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education (OSRHE) worked together to encourage broad



competition for slots.

Jodi and Joseph Jones (OSU Scholars), with
Larry Ferguson

Dr. Hans Brisch, Chancellor OSRHE, with
Joanne Stevenson(LU Scholar) and Dr. Earl Mitchell

State Representative

OKLAHOMA ALLIANCE FOR MINORITY PARTICIPATION IN SCIENCE, MATHEMATICS, ENGINEERING
AND TECHNOLOGY

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OKAMP-SMET Partners: Oklahoma University, Northeastern State University, Langston University, East Central University, Southeastern Oklahoma State University, University of Central Oklahoma, and Northwestern Oklahoma State University and Oklahoma State University. There are 19 OKAMP Affiliate colleges and universities.

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