

Contact: Christie Zachary
Director of Marketing and Communication
College of Education and Human Services
Phone: 304-293-0224
Christie.Zachary@mail.wvu.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Encouragement in STEM: Providing the Next Generation with the Knowledge to Succeed

MORGANTOWN, W.Va., July 10, 2014– High school students from around the state are investing in their futures now as they participate in the West Virginia University-based program called Health Sciences and Technology Academy (HSTA).

For the month of July, HSTA welcomed students and teachers to the Robert C. Byrd Health Sciences Center and the WVU downtown campus to kick off three weeks of enrichment in STEM.

Seven graduates from the WVU College of Education and Human Services (CEHS) are currently on campus, participating as teachers for the HSTA Summer Institute, a one-to-three week campus-based program open to all HSTA students. Four camps are taking place this summer:



- Fun with Science, rising 9th graders, Marshall University, July 13-18
- Forensics, rising 10th graders, West Virginia State and Glenville State, July 13-18
- Bio-Med I & II, rising 11th graders, WVU Health Sciences Center, July 6-11 & July 13-18
- Senior Camp for college credit, rising 12th graders and recent graduates, WVU Downtown campus, July 6-25

Eighty-two students are participating in this year's Bio-Med I summer program on the WVU campus. Beginning on Sunday, July 13, Bio-Med II has 61 registered students. For Senior Camp, there are 46 students working for college credit.

Originally begun with 45 students from two counties, HSTA now engages more than 800 talented students, 9th-12th grades, from rural, minority and first-generation college backgrounds. The program guides them through pre-college, college and graduate school. Students enroll in their high school years and follow a rigorous curriculum, many choosing to continue their studies in higher education.

Empowering students to achieve and follow their dreams in a state with a graduation rate below the national average is something HSTA founder, Dr. Ann Chester, Vice-President of Education Partnerships at WVU Health Sciences Center has worked to achieve since the program's inception in 1994. Today, 97 percent of HSTA students go on to attend college.

Charline Barnes Rowland, an associate professor at the College of Education and Human Services, is the director of HSTA Summer Institute and chair of its Summer Advisory Board.

"Since 1994, HSTA has served communities around the state and been an educational pipeline to college for underserved, rural and minority high school students from West Virginia," said Barnes Rowland.

"The four camps, with two on WVU campus, are designed for learning, having fun and meeting new people. Students are engaged in academically challenging labs with university faculty while doing extra-curricular activities with college students who served as mentors. Except for Senior Camp, there is a teacher training component for sponsors of HSTA local school clubs prior to the student camp."



Fun with Science, Forensics and BioMed I & II camps occur for one week while Senior Camp occurs for three weeks and students can earn college credit via a WVU course.

Once they finish the summer program, students will continue in their studies in their HSTA local school clubs where they will gain

more hands-on experience and opportunities such as paid internships and research assistantships.

Students in the BioMed I & II programs will present their projects on Friday, July 11 and Friday, July 18 from 9:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. in Health Sciences Center, Room 1905.

For more information, please contact Christie Zachary at (304) 293-0224 or Christie.Zachary@mail.wvu.edu.

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