

PAESMEM AWARDEES PARTICIPATE IN MENTORING WORKSHOP

Nine NSF Presidential Awardees for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring (PAESMEM) convened on the campus of North Carolina State University to attend the North Carolina Alliance to Create Opportunity through Education (NC OPT-ED) Mentoring Workshop. These distinguished awardees received the nation's highest honor in scientific mentoring. The NSF-Alliances for Graduate Education and the Professoriate (AGEP) sponsored workshop was held on March 31, 2008 and participants from 13 different universities were represented. In addition, NSF Program Directors, Dr. Roosevelt Johnson, AGEP Program Director and his team of Dr. Lenell Allen, Mr. Al Wilson and Ms. Cynthia Douglas and Dr. David Temple, Jr., PAESMEM Program Director attended the workshop.



Dr. Roosevelt Johnson and Dr. Tanya Furman in breakout session

Funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) Alliances for Graduate Education and the Professoriate (AGEP), NC OPT-ED combines the resources of NC Agricultural and Technical State University (NC A&T), North Carolina State University (NCSU) and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC-Chapel Hill) to recruit, mentor and graduate underrepresented students in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) disciplines. Partners in a formal NC OPT-ED network include the NC Math Science Education Network (NC-MSEN), the NC Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LSAMP), the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Undergraduate Program (HBCU-UP), the Center for Research Excellence in Science and Technology (CREST) and the Alliances for Graduate Education and the Professoriate (AGEP) program, all with support from the Directorate for Education and Human Resources/Division of Human Resource Development, National Science Foundation.

The theme of the Mentoring Workshop; “Mentoring and Diversity -- Gateway to Empowerment” was emphasized throughout the mentoring workshop. The interactive breakout sessions where faculty and graduate students/post docs separately discussed and addressed issues associated with mentoring underrepresented students, people with disabilities and others provided a wealth of knowledge of how best to mentor others. The collaborative discussion and presentations by both groups created this atmosphere of how mentoring can be best practiced in all environments. Relevant discussion points taken from each of the breakout sessions are found on the NC OPT-ED website: www.unc.edu/opt-ed. The participation of the PAESMEM awardees in each of the breakout sessions provided an added dimension on mentoring techniques in addition to their comments provided during the panel discussion.

Five recipients from the state of North Carolina have been awarded the PAESMEM individual award and four of the five attended the workshop. Additionally, in attendance were PAESMEM recipients from Louisiana State University, Pennsylvania State University, University of Florida and New Mexico State University. The PAESMEM award, presented annually since 1996 and administered by the National Science Foundation, includes a \$10,000 grant and a presidential commemorative certificate. The PAESMEM awardees are listed below in the order of their receipt of the award.

1996 Recipient

Martha Absher, Assistant Dean for Education and Outreach, Pratt School of Engineering, Duke University. The first North Carolina recipient of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring (PAESMEM)

1998 Recipient

Winsor Alexander, Ph.D., Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering, North Carolina State University

2000 Recipients

Vallie Guthrie, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Chemistry and Director, Greensboro Area Mathematics and Science Education Center (GAMSEC), North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University



Dr. Vallie Guthrie



Dr. Steven Watkins, Dr. Christine Grant, and Dr. Tony Mitchell

Tony Mitchell, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Assistant Dean for Engineering Student Services and Director of Minority Engineering Programs, North Carolina State University (Institution Award)

2003 Recipient

Christine Grant, Ph.D., Professor of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering and Associate Dean of Faculty Development and Special Initiatives: College of Engineering, North Carolina State University

2004 Recipient

Steven F. Watkins, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Chemistry and former Director of Graduate Studies and former Associate Chairman, Chemistry Department, Louisiana State University

2005 Recipient

Tanya Furman, Ph.D., Professor of Geosciences and Assistant Vice President and Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education, Pennsylvania State University

2006 Recipients

Jonathan F. K. Earle, Ph.D., Professor of Agricultural/Biological Engineering and former Associate Dean of Student Affairs, University of Florida



Dr. Jonathan Earle

Ricardo B. Jacquez, Ph.D., Regents Professor of Civil Engineering and Director of New Mexico Alliance for Minority Participation, New Mexico State University

The opening and focus of the mentoring workshop was provided by Dr. Valerie Ashby, Professor of Chemistry and AGEP Director at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC-CH). The workshop participants received greetings on behalf of the Chancellor of North Carolina State University by Dr. Jose Picart, Vice Provost for Diversity and African American Affairs. Each breakout session had a distinguished mentor who served as a

moderator. They were Dr. Goldie Byrd, Professor and Chair, Department of Biology at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University; Dr. Saundra DeLauder, Associate Professor of Chemistry and Interim Dean, College of Science and Technology at North Carolina Central University and Dr. Checo Rori, SPIRE Postdoctoral Fellow at UNC-CH. Dr. David Shafer, Assistant Dean for Outreach and Diversity and AGEP Director at North Carolina State University (NCSU) recognized Dr. Margaret King, an outstanding mentor of students and faculty, who retired as an English Professor at NCSU and as associate dean and associate vice chancellor in the University's Graduate School. She also authored the Mentoring Book, "On the Right Track: A Manual for Research Mentors."

The remarks by Dr. Roosevelt Johnson added a special touch to the workshop. He discussed why mentoring must start early and that it can play a greater role in our undergraduate and graduate student education if it is properly executed. Prior to the discussion of each of the PAESMEM awardees, Dr. David Temple provided an overview of the PAESMEM award process and the importance of recognizing those faculty and organizations who have consistently demonstrated excellence in mentoring students.

Presentations by each of the PAESMEM awardees provided many opportunities for questions and answers from the audience. The awardees told of critical life experiences within their careers in which mentoring played a key role in their professional development. Their areas of expertise extended from mentoring students with physical disabilities, those from middle and high school, to mentoring undergraduate and graduate students.

The success of the workshop is evident by the comments received from the participants below:

Dear Larry,

Thank you for inviting me. I had a great time, and I especially enjoyed talking to the graduate students. It absolutely thrills me to watch these talented young people in action, and I rest assured that the world is passing to this next very capable generation. Thanks also to you and your hard-working staff for such a successful meeting.

Best wishes,

Steve Watkins, Louisiana State University

Larry:

Thank you for all that you do and will do for our nation and for new generations of learner-leaders. I was honored to participate and to learn so very much more.

Thanks too for the care and attention that you brought to this great effort.

David Temple, NSF PAESMEM Program Director

Hi Larry,

Thank you for inviting me to participate in this program. It was certainly a wonderful experience for me. You and your team did an outstanding job in pulling this together, and must all be commended for the excellent planning and implementation.

It was great meeting you, your colleagues, and all the other participants. If I can be of any assistance in the future, please call on me. I will make every effort to be available for events such as these, which are very close to my heart.

Very best wishes for continued success in all that you do.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Earle, University of Florida

Thank you, Larry for all your hard work in organizing the conference, but more importantly for all the work you do in marshalling the troops in North Carolina. I had a wonderful day, and really did learn a lot.

Tanya Furman, Pennsylvania State University

Hi Larry,

I thoroughly enjoyed the mentoring workshop that was conducted on yesterday at the McKimmon Center. The speakers on the afternoon panel were quite impressive. It was worth my time just to hear their different perspectives (e.g., male vs. female, white vs black, etc.) I was just amazed at the level of expertise, as well as wisdom among the panelists who were in the room on yesterday. I felt honored to be in their presence. As a state, we should be very proud of the number of Presidential Awardees that we have representing NC.

I did not think about this until after hearing Tony Mitchell speak about their Presidential Award as an institution award. I thought all the panelists were invited because they had received individual awards. If I had know otherwise, I would have mentioned our award. Are you aware that the NC-MSEN Pre-College Program was a recipient of the Presidential Award for Mentoring in 1998? We also received that honor for our work with underrepresented pre-college students in STEM, which included \$10,000 to continue our efforts.

Have a great day!

Rita Fuller, MSEN Pre-College Program, UNC General Administration

Larry,

Let me add my appreciation to that expressed by my colleague, David Temple. The "A-Team" (Len ell, Cynthia, Al, and me) totally enjoyed participating in the workshop, and look forward to future participation in OPT-ED activities. The workshop was just one of many outstanding events that you have coordinated over the past few years, and I am very pleased to have been able to play a small part in support of those

efforts. I commend the organizers and participants for a very worthwhile workshop. I will encourage my other colleagues in AGEP and within NSF to sponsor similar events.

Roosevelt Johnson, NSF AGEP Program Director

The point of contact for the Mentoring Workshop is Larry E. Campbell, NC OPT-ED Program Manager and Alliance Coordinator, who can be reached via email at lecamp@email.unc.edu or at (919) 843-6903.