

FIU PROJECT 5 - 2012 FACT SHEET

DOE-FIU Workforce Development Program

FIU's Applied Research Center (ARC) is supporting the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Environmental Management in the training of STEM, minority FIU students in an effort to create of pipeline of scientists and engineers that will enter DOE's workforce upon completing their degrees and research at FIU.

Project Objectives

The DOE-FIU Science and Technology Workforce Development Program is an innovative program between the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Environmental Management (DOE-EM) and Florida International University's Applied Research Center designed to create a "pipeline" of minority engineers specifically trained and mentored to enter the Department of Energy workforce in technical areas of need. This innovative program was designed to help address DOE's future workforce needs by partnering with academic, government and DOE contractor organizations to mentor future minority scientists and engineers in the research, development, and deployment of new technologies addressing DOE's environmental cleanup challenges. Students selected as DOE Fellows will perform DOE-EM related "hands on" research at FIU by working alongside FIU-ARC's scientists and engineers as well as with FIU faculty. The students also participate in summer internship assignments at DOE facilities such as national laboratories and DOE sites. Upon graduation and completion of this fellowship, the students will submit an application to join Federal internship programs such as the Student Career Experience Program (SCEP) or apply to DOE national laboratories and DOE contractors.

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Project Benefits

- Opportunities for students to enhance their professional development and work experience by participating in hands on research working alongside ARC and FIU scientists
- Participate in 10-week internships at DOE national laboratories such as Oak Ridge, Pacific Northwest, Lawrence Livermore, Savannah River, Los Alamos, and Idaho, as well as DOE-HQ, and DOE sites
- Opportunities for graduate students to develop master thesis and/or PhD dissertation topics with direct supervision of ARC scientists and FIU faculty
- Opportunities for students to attend national and international conferences such as the Waste Management Symposia, American Nuclear Society's annual meetings and topical conferences
- Opportunities for students to develop presentation skills by showcasing their research via oral presentations and poster competitions
- Opportunities for students to seek employment with DOE, DOE national labs, and DOE contractors

Project Accomplishments

- DOE Fellows (Rosa Ramirez, Lee Brady, Edgard Espinosa), hired by DOE-EM and currently working at DOE-HQ
- DOE Fellow, Charles Castello, hired by Oak Ridge National Laboratory. DOE Fellow (Merlin Ngachin and Duriem Calderin) hired by DOE contractors - Waste Control Specialists and Columbia Energy Environmental Services respectively
- Other DOE Fellows hired by Boeing Company, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Bechtel Corporation, Florida Power & Light, Mount Sanai Medical Center, Internal Revenue Service, PriceSmart Inc., Bouygues Civil Works Florida, Crane Aerospace and Electronics, and HP Foundation
- Awarded Best Professional Poster (Leydi Velez) and Best Student Posters (Denisse Aranda, Danny Carvajal, and Stephen Wood) at Waste Management Symposia with a total of 62 presentations (posters and papers) since 2008
- Completed 64 internships at DOE sites, DOE national labs, DOE-HQ, and DOE contractors since 2007
- Recruited/inducted 65 students as DOE Fellows since program inception in 2007
- 26 Fellows have obtained (or in the process of obtaining) master and PhD degrees at FIU; others have continued their graduate education at MIT, Michigan, Purdue, Stanford, Virginia Tech, UT, USF, and other institutions