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Center for Clinical &amp; Translational Science



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## SREP has second successful summer, implements career workshops

The Summer Research Experience Program (SREP), hosted by the Ohio State University Center for Clinical and Translational Science (CCTS) and funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, wrapped up its second year on Thursday, August 5 with participant poster presentations.

Twenty-two students and six teachers from Metro Early College High School and Columbus City Schools' Eastmoor Academy participated in the eight-week long program this year, compared to 14 students and two teachers in 2009.

"They're getting to do stuff that they wouldn't have had the opportunity to do that even a lot of college students don't have the opportunity to do," said Stephanie Vecchiarelli, Research Education, Training and Career Development Program Manager at the CCTS.

Vecchiarelli cited work experience, connections to OSU, and compensation as some of the primary benefits of the program. Ebony Brown, a 16-year-old student at Eastmoor Academy, saw these benefits first hand.

"My favorite part was experiencing what to do in life, as far as research goes, because it applies to so many things you do," Brown said. The program also sparked an interest in future research for some students.

"This definitely made me want to go out and do research later on," said Nisa Hussein, a 17-year-old SREP participant.

Participants studied at one of four locations, which included The Ohio State University Medical Center, The Ohio Supercomputer Center, Nationwide Children's Hospital, and the Center of Science and Industry.

The participants, all of whom are exposed to biomedical curricula at their schools, were matched with an investigator based on their area of interest.

This year, the program encompassed a broad spectrum, ranging from basic research to studying pre-term babies, cancer, nutrition, and tobacco cessation.

For the teachers, the experience interested them on a personal level and allowed for integration of what they learned about the research process into their curriculum.

Vecchiarelli implemented a change into this year's program. On Tuesday mornings, career counseling services were offered to the student participants. The workshops focused on resume writing, career development, learning styles, and the creation of scientific posters to help students prepare for their future careers.

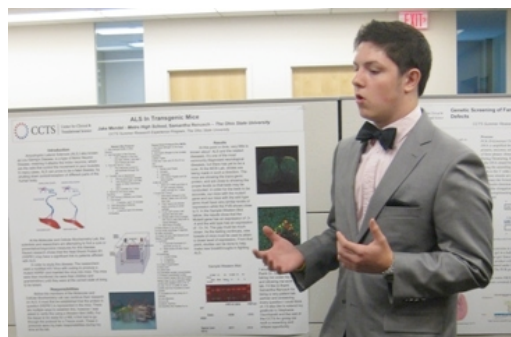
Vecchiarelli received positive feedback from both participants and investigators.

Jordan Behn, 17, said he liked that the investigator he worked with allowed him to watch experiments until he felt comfortable doing them on his own.

"I was concerned that the investigators would potentially have a hard time finding work for high school students to do on their own, or do (without) a lot of supervision," Vecchiarelli said. "But the investigators have been extremely helpful and have really dedicated a lot of their time to making sure the students have a meaningful and worthwhile learning experience."

By [Nicole Frie](#) and [Becky King](#). Wednesday, August 11, 2010

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An SREP student participant presents a poster on his research

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September 28, 2010 - 1:00am — [Opportunities for Collaborative Clinical and Translational Science: Enhancing Clinical Phenotyping](#)

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