



For Immediate Release

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Sacramento High Students Will Present Biophotonics Findings to UC Davis Researchers

Program Gives Students Rare Exposure to a Cutting Edge Field

Sacramento, CA (June 17, 2008)— While most kids are currently enjoying the first few weeks of their summer vacation, a group of sophomore and junior students at Sacramento High School have been furiously working on a three-week summer internship in the field of Biophotonics and cancer science. The goal of the program, funded collaboratively through the National Science Foundation Center for Biophotonics and the National Cancer Institute CURE supplement to the UC Davis Cancer Center, is to attract underrepresented students into the field of Biophotonics and related fields like cancer science. On Friday, June 20th at 1:00 pm students will present their research findings to UC Davis biophotonics and cancer researchers at the Center for Biophotonics Science and Technology.

“When do you hear of high school students having a one-on-one opportunity to work with researchers at UC Davis? It is an amazing opportunity for them to become equipped with hands on experience they can use in their future schooling and careers,” said Denise Lee, the Sacramento High School Science teacher in charge of the program. “This is a very enriching experience that will ultimately challenge students to think about careers in science.”

This is the second year that Sacramento High School has partnered with UC Davis in this unique program. Students who showed a strong interest and strength in the sciences were asked to apply, and then had to complete an interview process before being chosen. Approximately 20 students then took a Biophotonics and cancer science class during the school year to prepare for their summer research, which will pay each student a stipend of \$1,000. When students go back to school in the fall they will continue fine tuning their research for the Sacramento Unified School District’s March 2009 Science Fair.

Some of the project that students will present on Friday include: The effects of natural and artificial sugar on Daphnia (water flea); The effects of UV radiation on the DNA structure and phenotype of squash and radish plants; Sound waves and their effects on Daphnia; What type of light attracts Sea Monkeys?; The effects of ascorbic acid on Arabidopsis: An analysis of the growth rate and potential protection of UV light; Are we inadvertently harming Daphnia?; and cricket nicotine effects.

The Center for Biophotonics Science and Technology is located at 2700 Stockton Boulevard. For more information about the CURE Biophotonics and Cancer Science Research Academy and/or the Sacramento High School Symposium on June 20th, please call Lesley Miller at 916-442-1394.

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