

SEPA SCIENCE EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP AWARD

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Newsletter

SEPA Newsletter #2
Summer 2008 Edition

2008 SEPA Conference Summary

Louisa Stark, University of Utah

The 2008 Annual NCRR Science Education Partnership Award Conference was held May 19-21 at the Hilton Washington DC/ Rockville Executive Meeting Center in Rockville, MD. A total of 176 individuals from 74 SEPA projects as well as NIH NCRR staff members and other interested individuals attended the Conference. The Conference opened with welcomes from Barbara Alving, MD, NIH NCRR Director, and Anthony Hayward, MD, PhD, NIH NCRR Clinical Resources Director. These were followed by an update on the SEPA program, presented by L. Tony Beck, PhD, the NIH NCRR SEPA Program Officer. The Honorable John Porter, former Representative from Illinois, gave an inspiring keynote address, focusing on what individuals can do within the political process to advance science education and research in the US. A poster session provided opportunities for interaction and networking among projects. A significant part of the second day was devoted to two sessions of workshops focused on evaluating the effectiveness/impact of six types of programs common to many SEPA projects – teacher professional development, student science enrichment, research and internship experiences for students and/or teachers, curriculum material development, educational media and multimedia development, and informal science education. A panel discussion with the workshop presenters concluded the day's program. The third day offered break-out sessions on formation of a diabetes/obesity working group, planning for a collaborative grant proposal, and a showcase of SEPA-generated multimedia resources. The Conference concluded with a Town Meeting led by Dr. Tony Beck.



National DNA Day commemorates the identification of DNA's double helix in April 1953 and the completion of the sequencing of the Human Genome in April 2003. In celebration of National DNA day, April 25, 2008, the University of Nebraska Medical Center Breaking Barriers SEPA project and its partner schools joined teachers and students across the nation to celebrate Genetics and Genomics. Program Director, Dr. Maurice Godfrey, Ph.D. was able to provide eight reservation schools with a DNA Day. The students who attended DNA Day had a combination of slide and video presentations, interactive discussions and hands-on experience with DNA. DNA Day was funded by the National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI).

BRAND NEW SEPA PROJECT:



SEPA WEBSITE

The SEPA website is a great resource. Projects are categorized into curricula, films/multimedia, museum exhibits, equipment loans, teacher workshops, student programs, and parent workshops for easy access by users. You can also search for projects by PI name, project title, funding years, and keywords. Be sure to visit the SEPA website (<http://www.ncrrsepa.org/>) and send all updates about your project to the SEPA website webmaster, Yan Liu (liuy7@uthscsa.edu).

Spectrum: Building Pathways to Biomedical Research Careers for Girls and Women

PI: Kimberly D. Tanner

Institution: San Francisco State University (SFSU)

Funding Years: 2007 – 2012

The **Spectrum** program aims to bring together K-12 teachers and their students with individuals from multiple stages on the biomedical research career pathway. Together, a community composed of biomedical scientists who are women of color—including SFSU undergraduate students, SFSU Masters students, SFSU alumni in local doctoral and biotechnology positions, and SFSU Faculty—and middle and high school students and teachers will collaborate to learn about the biology behind women's health issues and current research being conducted by women biomedical researchers of color. Visit the website at <http://www.sfsu.edu/~sepal/>

Community Outreach



The Nature of Discovery Symposium from **Project ARISE**, held May 3, 2008 at Brown University brought together **Project ARISE**

teachers and their students to share results from classroom experiments and independent research projects. More than 380 people attended the event where seventy-seven students (both high school and Brown graduate students) presented posters on their inquiry-based research. Two high school students also gave an oral presentation. Dr. Kenneth Miller, a professor of biology at Brown and a nationally recognized science educator and advocate, presented the keynote address. Participants also listened to a panel of Brown graduate students discuss their research and how they became interested in studying science. See below for more about the **Project ARISE**.



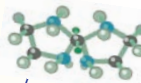
Jennifer Aizenman, Brown University

Project ARISE: Advancing Rhode Island Science Education

PIs: John Stein, Jennifer Aizenman, Lawrence Wakeford

Institution: Brown University • **Funding Year:** 2006 – 2009

Project ARISE is a professional development program for Rhode Island high school biology teachers. This program is designed to engage teachers and students in inquiry-based approaches to learning about science and improve the understanding of the relevance of science to everyday life. The goal of the program is to develop the tools and perspective that will enable high school teachers to integrate high-level concepts in molecular and genomic biology, bioinformatics, neuroscience and physiology into the high school classroom. http://www.brown.edu/Administration/Continuing_Studies/ap/projectarise/



"...this was so much fun, science should be like this all the time."

STUDENT COMMENT ABOUT **Project ARISE**

"You supported us and we carried the message. You made us feel that we were not working in a vacuum, that our work was important, that science needs this inquiry approach - and it worked. This was the best workshop experience I have been involved with. It forced me to carry the message to the application level, and move on."

TEACHER COMMENT ABOUT **Project ARISE**

SUCCESS!

PROJECT ARISE: STUDENT SUCCESS STORY

Kachine Perry, a high school student at Cranston High School, was described by her teacher, **Victoria Conte** – "Kachine is extremely interested in continuing her education in science. She has conducted experiments on hair color, IQ, and the effects of energy drinks on the *Daphnia*. Kachine can see the difference in real science and has worked so hard. She is a true success."



Kachine Perry

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