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OSSI Perspectives

Dr. Vivian Williamson Whitney and Kimberly Van Valkenburgh, Co-Editors OSSI Times eNews

This edition of the OSSI eNews highlights NASA's Office of Education second annual Education Stakeholders' Summit, the OSSI Information Center, and a new WebEx-based professional development forum. Keep reading to learn more about these and other OSSI accomplishments.



The OSSI team exceeded 2011 student outreach targets of 2,000 new, certified student applicants. More than 7,500 students used OSSI:SOLAR to apply for 2011 Summer, Fall, and Year Long NASA opportunities. Of these, 961 were selected. The team is off to a great start in 2012, as shown in the chart below, with data as of early January.

Session	Posted Opportunities	Applications*
Spring 2012	251	669
Summer 2012	189	934
Year Long 2012	37	153

*Students may apply to more than one session and application type (Internship, Fellowship, and Scholarship); each application is included within the count.

For questions or comments about:	
OSSI eNews	Contact Co-Editors, Dr. Vivian Williamson Whitney at vivianwhitney@oai.org and Kimberly Van Valkenburgh at kimberly.a.vanvalkenburgh@nasa.gov
Technical or Non-Technical OSSI questions	Submit inquiries to the OSSI Information Center (OIC) , which is accessible on the OSSI LaunchPad at http://intern.nasa.gov . Click "Help" > " OSSI Information Center (OIC) "



2011 Education Stakeholders' Summit

STEM Workforce Infrastructure Explored at NASA's Education Stakeholders' Summit II

NASA's Office of Education recently convened the second Education Stakeholders' Summit. NASA's Offices of Human Capital Management, Diversity and Equal Opportunity, and Communications co-sponsored this training event. The Summit brought together more than 225 stakeholders from Academia, Federal Government, and Industry to exchange ideas focused on building an infrastructure to attract, retain and develop the future STEM workforce.

Summit themes addressed strategies to enhance the infrastructure through *Creating the Foundations*, *Building the On-Ramps*, *Building Bridges*, and *The Road Ahead*. Leland Melvin, Associate Administrator for NASA's Office of Education hosted the Collaborating Stakeholders' Plenary Session, which included John Berry, Director of the United States Office of Personnel Management; Dr. Gilbert L. Rochon, President - Tuskegee University; Wanda Sigur, Vice President Engineering- Lockheed Martin; and Dr. Woodrow Whitlow, Associate Administrator for Mission Support-NASA. These leaders discussed why working in STEM careers is "cool."

The opening session ended with a panel of NASA Student Ambassadors who shared why their internships at NASA were "cool." Briefings on Year-One performance outcomes of the One Stop Shopping Initiative (OSSI) for NASA Internship, Fellowship and Scholarship Opportunities were major highlights of the Summit.

The Summit planning team implemented a number of cost efficient measures by including within this single event the University Research Centers Annual Meeting as well as funding opportunity discussions for the International Space Station National Lab Education Project and Summer of Innovation.



John Berry, Director - United States Office of Personnel Management



Leland Melvin, Associate Administrator for Education - NASA

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2011 Education Stakeholders' Summit

STEM Workforce Infrastructure Explored at NASA's Education Stakeholders' Summit II – con't.

Additionally, technology facilitated increased stakeholder participation by broadcasting the first day of Summit programming via NASA's Digital Learning Network and recording the funding opportunity sessions for future distribution to stakeholders who did not attend the Summit.

We are pleased to share some of the Summit II PowerPoint presentations and videos with our stakeholder community. A video of presentations made during the International Space Station National Lab Education Project Technical Workshop and PDF presentations from the University Research Centers Annual Meeting are among the resources now available online. Please click on the link below to access these resources: www.oai.org/OSSI/

OEID Strategic Management Teams

The One Stop Shopping Initiative is part of the newly formed Office of Education Infrastructure Division (OEID). The OEID delivers subject matter expert services to support the Education Framework. The OEID team and services are described in the OSSI LaunchPad Updates section of this eNews.

Congratulations to the following new Office of Education Infrastructure Division (OEID) team members:

- Debrina Harrell, OEID IT Project Manager
- Dr. Patricia Moore Shaffer, Evaluation Manager
- Ellen Blahut, Content Specialist, OAI
- Alex Grandon, Broker-Facilitator, AIHEC
- Tasha Teelucksingh, Information and Events Coordinator

Farewell and best wishes to Courtney Danto, the former co-Editor of the *OSSI eNews*, as she transitions to another assignment. Kim Van Valkenburgh will be taking her place as the new co-Editor.



Announcements and Calendar of Events

NASA's Office of Education Provides Information and Professional Development Sessions via WebEx

The NASA Office of Education Infrastructure Division now offers a series of information and professional development sessions via WebEx. This resource, accessible from the OSSI LaunchPad at <http://intern.nasa.gov>, provides topic overviews and quick tutorials that can be completed within 30 to 60 minutes each.

Upcoming topics include:

- Social Media – An Introduction - March 9, 2012 and March 23, 2012
- Change Management – An Introduction - April 6, 2012 and April 20, 2012

To learn more, go to the OSSI LaunchPad and click on “Training” under “Administrative Support Tools.” To register for a training session, e-mail HQ-OSSI-Information-Ctr@mail.nasa.gov and indicate:

- Your name
- Your NASA office and Center (or indicate your affiliation to NASA)
- The title and date of the session you would like to attend

Recruiting Events

Date	Event	Location
Mar 14 – 17	National Black Graduate Student Association Meeting	Philadelphia, PA
Mar 17 - 18	Geoscience Alliance Conference	Pablo, MT
Mar 28 – Apr 1	National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) Conference	Pittsburgh, PA
April 14	California Forum for Diversity in Graduate Education, San Diego State	San Diego, CA
April 25 – 28	The National Association of Graduate Admissions Professionals (NAGAP) Annual Conference	Austin, TX
May 22 – 23	Native American Student Advocacy Institute Conference	Los Angeles, CA



OSSI LaunchPad Updates

OSSI Information Center Goes Live!

The OSSI Information Center (OIC) is a communications tool available internally to the NASA Education community, including Mission Directorates, Centers, and mentors and externally to students, higher education faculty, and others. The OIC went live on January 12, 2012. The OIC is designed for users to submit questions or comments and view Frequently Asked Questions about NASA’s internship, fellowship, and scholarship opportunities. The OIC is accessible on the OSSI LaunchPad at <http://intern.nasa.gov/> and in OSSI:SOLAR.

OSSI-related inquiries come from all over the world. Accurate responses to inquiries about specific research, internship, fellowship, and scholarship programs as well as opportunities for international students often require specialized expertise. Before the OIC, these complex inquiries were directed to multiple points of contact. The OIC addresses these challenges by providing one place to submit inquiries and a routing process that forwards the inquiry to the appropriate OSSI Subject Matter Expert (SME). The SME will respond directly to the inquirer.

To submit questions or comments using OIC:

- In OSSI:SOLAR, click “Contact Us”
- On OSSI LaunchPad [Homepage], Click > Help > OSSI Information Center (OIC)

OSSI Information Center

Please use the form below to submit your questions or comments concerning NASA internship, scholarship, and fellowship opportunities. If you have any questions or comments about NASA's K-12 opportunities, please visit [NASA's K-12 Programs](#).

Before submitting your question or comment, please visit [the FAQs](#) for information about OSSI, student applications, and NASA opportunities.

Submit Question/Comment

* Are you registered in OSSI:SOLAR? Yes No

* Are you a Student or NASA Affiliate?

Contact Information

* Email Address:

* Confirm Email Address:

* First Name:

* Last Name:

Middle Initial:

Suffix:

* U.S. Citizen? Yes No

School Information

* Institution Status:

If you attend a U.S. accredited institution, use the U.S. Institution box below to search for your institution's name.
If your school is not listed or if you do not currently attend a U.S. institution, select the Institution Not Listed box and type your school's name in the International/Domestic Institution Name field below.

* U.S. Institution: Institution Not Listed

Institution Information:

* International/Domestic University/Institution Name:

It is our goal to provide users with timely and useful information about OSSI and NASA’s internship, fellowship, and scholarship opportunities. The OIC will help us to achieve this goal.



OSSI LaunchPad Updates

OSSI LaunchPad Provides Access to OEID's Service Request Form

NASA Education affiliates may now request services of the Office of Education Infrastructure Division (OEID) through the OEID Service Request Form on the OSSI LaunchPad. The recently formed OEID will deliver subject matter expert (SME) services to support the Education Framework. The OEID interconnected structure is composed of four teams: Operations and Information Exchange Team; Information Technology Systems Team; Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Workforce Support: Learners, Educators, and Institutions Team; and Evaluation Team. A description of each OEID Team is included in the following article.

To access the Service Request Form, go to the OSSI LaunchPad homepage at <http://intern.nasa.gov>. In the Administrative Support Tools (NASA Personnel Only) section, click "Launch" under "Service Request Form". Office of Education managers and leadership will use this form to request a variety of support tasks from the OEID team members. NASA Broker-Facilitator Corps that are seeking OEID's services to assist their programs may also use the Service Request Form. Through the use of this form, the Office of Education will be able to better manage the assignment and delivery of services.

The Office of Education Infrastructure Division Team Organization and Description

The Office of Education Infrastructure Division (OEID) delivers subject matter expert (SME) services for NASA Education through a systematic approach. Dr. Mabel Jones Matthews serves as Acting Director and Debrina Harrell as System Project Manager (CIO Detailee) of the OEID. OEID services are structured as interconnected structural elements in order to provide enhanced support to the Education Framework. This support facilitates, enables, sustains, and enhances informed NASA Education management and policy decision-making. The OEID is composed of Office of Education civil servants, contractors, and grantees that serve on at least two of the four operating teams:

- Operations and Information Exchange Team
- Information Technology Systems Team
- STEM Workforce Support: Learners, Educators, and Institutions Team
- Evaluation Team

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OSSI LaunchPad Updates

The Office of Education Infrastructure Division Team Organization and Description - con't.

I. Operations and Information Exchange Team

The Operations and Information Exchange Team serves as the first point of entry to request OEID support services. The team also provides the following direct communications, event management, and resource facilitation services to internal and external NASA education audiences:

- **Support Services Requests:** Provide a “one-stop” portal for OEID customers to submit service/task requests and route them to the appropriate OEID team. Track and report requests on a periodic basis for analysis.
- **Communications:** Facilitate development of communications and change management products and services, including education resources, to engage internal and external audiences within STEM education activities and programs (i.e. multi-media presentations, graphics, social media, video production, special reports and speech writing).
- **Event and Conference Management:** Provide logistical support including costing, production of, and set-up for education regional or local events and conferences. Disseminate STEM education publications and materials to engage NASA audiences.

II. Information Technology Systems Team

The Information Technology (IT) Systems Team of NASA Education’s Infrastructure Division brings a diverse set of skills and expertise to manage the Office of Education agency level IT systems’. System life cycle activities include system development, implementation, and operations and sustainment activities. Team focus areas include:

- **System Development:** Identify and prioritize system requirements/enhancements focused on Office of Education business processes and data integration. Manage those requirements and develop system plans via unified Change Configuration Board (CCB) and Release Management processes.
- **System Implementation:** Manage business process development, implementation, and improvement where Office of Education business functions and application functions/capabilities coverage. Provide application users with training and awareness via user communications and center system points of contacts/administrators.
- **System Operations and Sustainment:** Ensure data applications are available, maintained, secure, and in compliance with agency regulations and other federal laws (i.e. PIA , NPR 1382.1).

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OSSI LaunchPad Updates

The Office of Education Infrastructure Division Team Organization and Description - con't.

III. STEM Workforce Support: Learners, Educators, and Institutions Team

The STEM Workforce Support Team facilitates implementation, collaboration, and coordination across NASA's Education Portfolio. This team assembles a diverse set of skills to provide the following services and support.

- **Program Implementation:** Facilitate implementation of NASA's Education Portfolio using methods of standardization and knowledge sharing. Services include capturing and sharing best practices and lessons learned and promoting common tools that support STEM education.
- **Program Collaboration:** Facilitate collaborative relationships with NASA Education stakeholders who provide STEM workforce support to learners, educators, and institutions.
- **Workforce Coordination:** Facilitate and leverage resources with NASA Education partners in areas of student recruitment and retention, professional development, and mentorships.

IV. Evaluation Team

The Evaluation Team of NASA Education's Infrastructure Division brings a diverse set of skills to support all stages of education programs, from program design through implementation and assessment of outcomes. Core team competencies include:

- **Program Design:** Collaborate with program staff and stakeholders to articulate program theory and design using diverse tools and strategies, including theory of change, logic models, literature reviews, and analytical support.
- **Process Evaluation:** Document program implementation and identify exemplary practices and programs.
- **Outcome & Impact Evaluation:** Assess the outcomes and impacts of NASA educational programs and initiatives.
- **Data Analysis and Reporting:** Provide support for the collection, analysis and reporting of data documenting program implementation and performance outcomes (i.e. PRA, OMB Reporting).



Broker-Facilitator Corps' Corner

American Indian Higher Education Consortium Works through Unique Challenges for a Successful Year One

The American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC) had a very successful year with OSSI. AIHEC successfully recruited 75 applicants from Tribal Colleges and University (TCU). This exceeds AIHEC's target, set by NASA, of 40 TCU students (two percent of 2,000), by 88%. Six students, who previously completed the NASA-AIHEC Summer Research Experience (SRE) program, currently serve as NASA Student Ambassadors, and one TCU student has been accepted into the NASA Co-Op Program. In Year One, AIHEC worked with students from 20 (out of 33) TCUs in the system. AIHEC developed numerous printed materials used during student outreach, a short video to assist students with completing their internship applications, and a PowerPoint presentation on OSSI that details the steps of using the OSSI:SOLAR site.

AIHEC also faced many challenges during Year One including limited fiscal resources and long, difficult distances to travel. Many TCUs are located in geographically remote areas in the western United States, with airports often 100 or more miles away. Weather plays a key role in determining when site visits can be safely conducted. For example, a November trip to Salish Kootenai College in Montana had to be cancelled due to blizzard-caused road closures. AIHEC staff visited two Minnesota TCUs in January 2011 when the temperatures ranged between -10 and -40 degrees. The severe weather limited participation by TCU students. In addition, there are very few American Indian role models in the STEM fields and many TCU students are historically resistant to internships away from home. However, despite these and other challenges, AIHEC had a successful year and is excited for Year Two with OSSI.

Moving into Year Two, AIHEC plans to target students from all 33 TCUs. AIHEC will also participate in career fairs at various TCUs. AIHEC included NASA Tribal College and University Program (TCUP) personnel in outreach activities and plans more site visits to diverse areas across the Country.

For more information on AIHEC NASA OSSI activities, contact: Al Kuslikis, (703) 838-0400 or via email: AKuslikis@aihec.org.



Nikki Santos from AIHEC giving an OSSI:SOLAR presentation.



NASA TCU Student Ambassador Terra Greenleaf assisting a student at Leech Lake Tribal College in creating an interest profile on OSSI: SOLAR.



Broker-Facilitator Corps' Corner

United Negro College Fund Special Programs Produces Professional Development Video for Students

UNCF Special Programs Corporation (UNCFSP) is excited to continue its partnership with NASA as the Predominantly Black Institution's (PBIs) Broker-Facilitator for OSSI. In this last quarter, we continued efforts to engage PBI students, faculty and administrators in becoming familiar with OSSI and prepare them to take advantage of OSSI:SOLAR opportunities. A professional development video entitled, "Recognizing Your Leadership Potential" was produced to assist students in moving beyond factors such as grade point average to identify how their knowledge, skill sets, and experiences translate into leadership qualities. This video is available on the OSSI:LaunchPad.



"Recognizing Your Leadership Potential" video available on OSSI:LaunchPad

Outreach activities included participation in Career Day at Southern University and partnering with NASA Kennedy Space Center for a second year to host a NASA Day at Florida A&M University (FAMU). In the months of October and November, recruitment activities were hosted at the University of the District of Columbia, Delaware State University, Claflin University, North Carolina A&T State University, St. Augustine's College, Norfolk State University, and Morgan State University where more than 290 students in a variety of disciplines were introduced to OSSI:SOLAR and provided strategies for a successful application. These events were excellent opportunities to also introduce students to the concept of "globalizing" their education. Webinars on this topic and others of interest will be conducted in the coming months. In addition, UNCFSP will implement better strategies for reaching constituents through social media, developing stronger relationships with OSSI partners, and continuing to advance the mission of OSSI.

For more information on UNCFSP NASA OSSI activities, contact: Sondra M. Lancaster, (703) 205-8137 or via email: sondra.lancaster@uncfsp.org.



Broker-Facilitator Corps' Corner

The Institute for Broadening Participation Uses Regional Specialists to Extend Geographic Reach

The Institute for Broadening Participation (IBP) is the Broker-Facilitator for Primarily White Institutions (PWIs). IBP's recruitment and student support strategies are based on both virtual and face-to-face activities and incorporates a team of Regional Specialists. The Specialists are dedicated faculty and program staff from across the country who help extend the geographic reach of IBP's recruitment efforts. IBP staff and Regional Specialists participate as speakers, workshop or panel coordinators, and/or exhibitors at a range of conferences. IBP personnel participated in 18 conferences in Year One of the OSSI implementation.

Highlights of last year's recruitment efforts include a faculty panel at the National Science Foundation Emerging Researchers National Conference. Larry Campbell (North Carolina State U.), Colette Patt (U.C., Berkeley), Lorraine Towns (CUNY Graduate Center), Sara Hernandez (Cornell U.), and Yolanda Trevino (Indiana U.) provided tips and advice to students on how to improve their internship and fellowship applications and how to make the most of the internship/fellowship experience to further their career in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

IBP's virtual outreach activities to both faculty and staff are ongoing. IBP successfully reaches out to faculty at strategic times of the academic year with information to share with their students. Additionally, timely, targeted email messages are sent to both students within the IBP National Student Directory of over 38,000 current and former students as well as OSSI:SOLAR system registrants. IBP personnel responded individually to over 2,000 emails in Year One.

In Year Two, IBP will extend the Regional Specialist program and increase travel and recruitment activities to build upon the PWI applicant base that was established in Year One.

For more information on IBP NASA OSSI activities, contact: Liv Detrick, (866) 593-9103 or via email: ldetrick@ibparticipation.org.



Students filling out the IBP Student Information Form during the 2011 Emerging Researchers National Conference



Broker-Facilitator Corps' Corner

Collaboration and Outreach by the Hispanic College Fund Pay Off

The Hispanic College Fund (HCF) conducted 24 targeted recruitment events via conferences, career fairs, informational sessions, and NASA Awareness Days at Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs) in Year One. NASA reported 758 applicants at HSIs, exceeding NASA's stated objective of 360 students recruited (18% of 2,000) by 111%.

HCF hosted four NASA Awareness Workshops at Hispanic Serving Institutions. These events involved 18 NASA Ambassadors, six NASA education staff, and nine NASA scientists and engineers. Ambassadors highlighted NASA's role in their professional development and offered advice on how to successfully prepare and apply for NASA opportunities. NASA education staff, scientists and engineers shared in depth information on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) careers and education opportunities agency-wide. NASA Centers and Facilities participating in the Awareness Workshops included: Kennedy Space Center, Johnson Space Center, White Sands Test Facility, Dryden Research Flight Center, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, and Ames Research Center.

In order to retain and support HSI interns and fellows, HCF developed a supportive relationship with the 59 students placed in NASA opportunities. HSI interns participated in two webinars: an introductory webinar which underscored the importance of networking and mentorship during the internship experience and a National Consortium for Graduate Degrees for Minorities in Engineering and Science (GEM) Grad Lab webinar on STEM graduate school opportunities. HCF also developed a Resume Writing and Interviewing Skills professional development module which is available on the OSSI:LaunchPad.

HCF worked collaboratively with the Broker-Facilitator Corps to brainstorm and share ideas for OSSI success. This resulted in professional development modules, collaboratively developed, to prepare students for the workforce. In addition, HCF supported outreach efforts for the American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC) at their annual Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCU) meeting and the Institute for Broadening Participation (IBP) at the Emerging Researchers Conference.

For more information on HCF NASA OSSI activities, contact: Cathalina Juarez, (202) 503-1476 or via email: NASAossi@hispanicfund.org.



From left to right: Hispanic College Fund Broker Facilitator, Cathalina Juarez, and NASA Student Ambassadors Heriberto Reynoso, Sabah Bux, Paul Martinez, and Jimmy Nguyen



Broker-Facilitator Corps' Corner



California Mathematics Engineering Science Achievement (MESA) Conference. From left to right: Michael Barnes - NASA Student Ambassador, Confesor Santiago - Aerospace Engineer/NASA Ames, Aisha Bowe - Aerospace Engineer/NASA Ames, Denice Calderon - NASA Motivating Undergraduates in Science and Technology (MUST) Scholar, Maria Lopez - NASA Ames Higher Education, Ricardo Fernandez - NASA MUST Scholar

Student Professional Development Videos Developed by Broker Facilitators Now Available on the OSSI:LaunchPad at <http://intern.nasa.gov>

Preparing For Your Interview	This video from the Hispanic College Fund (HCF) helps students through the process of preparing for a job interview.
Leadership Development	This video from the United Negro College Fund Special Programs (UNCFSF) Corporation helps students through the process of applying for NASA student grants and fellowships. Leadership isn't all about academic achievement - a true leader is someone who sets the example and motivates others to follow them.
Your Letter of Recommendation	This video from the American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC) provides students tips for getting an excellent letter of recommendation.
How to Have a Winning Application	This video from Institute for Broadening Participation (IBP) provides students with useful information about how to successfully complete a Scholarship or Internship NASA application.



Education Stakeholders' Spotlight

Center Spotlight

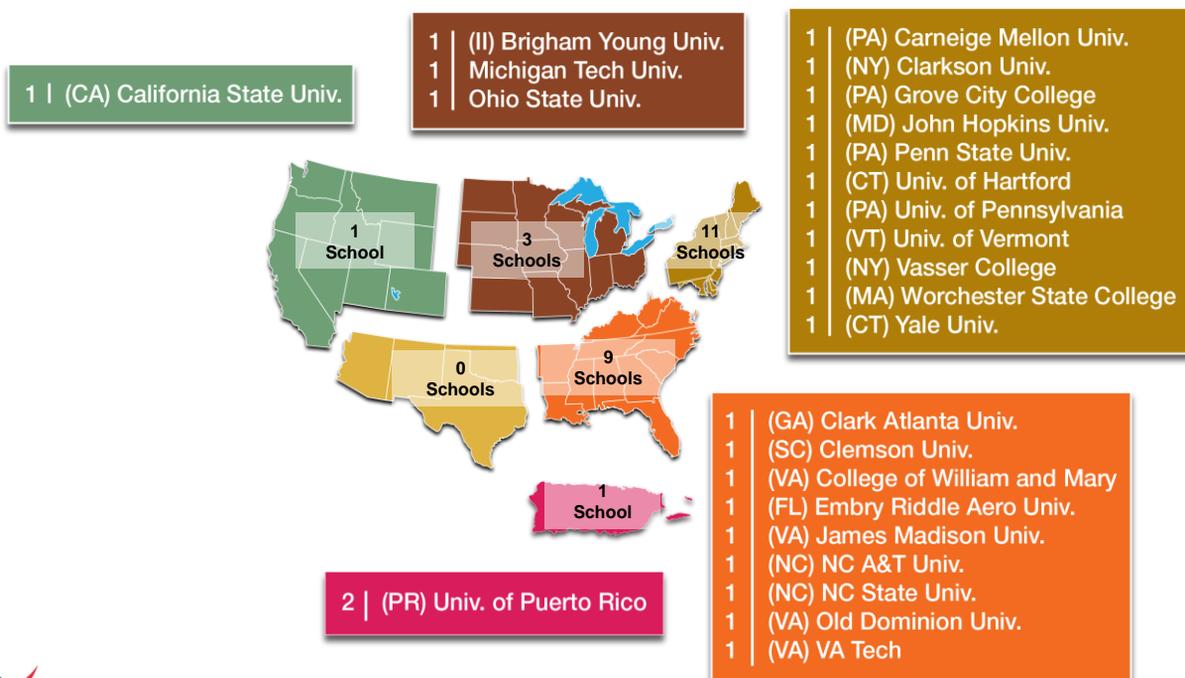
Langley Research Center's Students Represent Diverse Group of Universities

Langley Research Center successfully placed 26 interns for summer 2011 through the OSSI:SOLAR system. Fifteen students were accepted in the Undergraduate Student Research Program (USRP); six in Motivating Undergraduates in Science and Technology (MUST); three in Achieving Competence in Computing, Engineering and Space Science project (ACCESS), and two in Space Grant – Kentucky and Vermont -- scholarships. The geographic distribution was 26 students from 25 universities as shown in the picture below.

As always, the summer flew by with many activities such as orientation, the student picnic, lecture series, graduate enhancement seminar, student lunches, student fun nights, a field trip to Goddard, technical paper presentations, site visits, and a poster session to name a few of our activities. The students concluded their ten-week experience with completion of an Office of Education Performance Measurement survey.

It was a challenge to move on to Fall session with the crunch of summer activities still winding down. But the selection and placement of eight USRP students for the Fall session was successful and the feedback from mentors has been as positive and upbeat as summer student placements.

2011 USRP, MUST, ACCESS, and Space Grant Students at NASA LaRC Geographic Distribution of 26 Students at 25 Schools



Education Stakeholders' Spotlight

Center Spotlight – con't.

Jet Propulsion Laboratory Implements OSSI:SOLAR and Works with Strategic Partners

Fall 2010 was the starting point for implementing OSSI:SOLAR at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL). JPL was able to host and mentor exceptional students who received research awards from Achieving Competence in Computing, Engineering and Space Science (ACCESS), Motivating Undergraduates in Science and Technology (MUST), Undergraduate Student Research Program (USRP), National Space Grant College Program (Space Grant), Jenkins Pre-Doctoral Fellowship Program (Jenkins,) and Graduate Student Research Program (GSRP). OSSI:SOLAR made it possible for JPL's unique research opportunities to be visible and accessible to the broadest target audience. The key to the successful identification, selection and recruitment of outstanding applicants was the close collaboration between the Education Office and the mentor population prior to and during the selection process. A critical benefit for the Funding Source Coordinators (FSCs) was the ability to navigate OSSI:SOLAR not only in their assigned role, but also in the role of the mentor. This functionality enabled FSCs to assist the JPL science and engineering community in navigating the new tool and use it to the fullest potential.

Naturally, growing pains are common symptoms of any new system. JPL Rules and Guidelines require continued use of the JPL student research opportunity system (JPL AO System). It was a challenge to adapt the pre-existing student research opportunity system and practices to OSSI:SOLAR. Additional time was required to manually transfer research opportunity data into OSSI:SOLAR. JPL is currently considering a web tool that would push JPL AO System data to OSSI:SOLAR electronically. Technical challenges also arose with OSSI:SOLAR and additional technical support was needed. This issue will be addressed through the new OSSI Information Center (OCI) and a Configuration Control Board to manage requests in order to improve OSSI:SOLAR.

Once students were onboard, JPL's internal strategic partners collaborated to plan and host activities to engage the visiting student population as well as its Web audiences. These activities included the Montana Space Grant Student Blog: "Earth to Intern"

(<http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/education/index.cfm?page=282>), a Career Fair, Panel Discussions with JPL Early Career Hires, Practice Interview Sessions, Graduating Students Speed Networking Session, Social Events (i.e. Barbeques for students and mentors, Ice Cream Social), Speaker Series, Laboratory Tours, and Student Summer Seminar Days.



Students take advantage of a Photo Op with Center Director, Dr. Elachi, with a Mars landscape background during Ice Cream Social.



Education Stakeholders' Spotlight

Center Spotlight – con't.

Goddard Space Flight Center Shares Success Factors in Implementing OSSI

Goddard Space Flight Center's (GSFC) successful implementation of OSSI was due to the visible commitment of leadership, collaboration among stakeholders within and outside of NASA, advanced planning, adaptability in implementation, and strong training and communication plans.

Center Management demonstrated commitment to this initiative by requiring every organization to post student opportunities within OSSI:SOLAR. In addition, collaboration was strong among Center Management, GSFC's Education Office, Directorate Management, Mentors, and Universities. For example, GSFC's Education Office acted in close collaboration with each Directorate; an OSSI:SOLAR representative was assigned by Directorate-level management to assist mentors and prepare management reporting; Universities (including Space Grants) were invited to work with the Education Office in recruiting highly qualified applicants for workforce pipeline consideration; and a robust Center recruitment effort was used to ensure a diverse pool of highly qualified candidates.

Advanced planning and design were complemented by adaptability in order to successfully implement OSSI and address issues quickly. GSFC's Education Office identified the unique needs of internal and external programs and conducted coordination meetings each week. In addition, shared goals were developed to support diversity, inclusion, and a high quality experience for each intern. Adaptability in implementation included the use of Program Selection Committees where Programs could select their own interns; hands-on training sessions; and a "Help" resource to provide on-call support for mentors, supervisors and directorates.

Training and communications were ongoing, specific, and real time. As mentioned above, hands-on training sessions were conducted to assist managers in creating and processing opportunities in OSSI:SOLAR, developing funding source eligibility requirements, understanding OSSI:SOLAR roles and responsibilities, and extending offers. Similar sessions were used to train administrative users on a different OSSI:SOLAR function each week. In addition, weekly and on-demand reports were provided to Directorate representatives conveying the number of mentors utilizing OSSI:SOLAR, a list of opportunities entered, the number of applicants for each opportunity, and a list of interns requested by mentors. This weekly report, along with feedback from the training sessions, helped to identify where further support was needed.

Leadership support, collaboration, planning, adaptable implementation, training and communications each played a critical role in the success of OSSI at GSFC.



Education Stakeholders' Spotlight

Center Spotlight – con't.

Glenn Research Center Uses External Review Board and Internal Selection Panel as Part of Scholar Selection Process

Glenn Research Center (GRC) utilized the OSSI:SOLAR internal and external review functionality to review and rate student applications for both scholarships and internships. The external review board functionality made the Motivating Undergraduates in Science and Technology (MUST) scholarship application and selection process easier. Students applied for the MUST scholarship, NASA Education assigned applications to reviewers external to NASA, reviewers rated applications, and NASA Education extended offers to successful applicants -- all through OSSI:SOLAR. Forty-eight new students out of 148 eligible applicants were selected to be new MUST scholars.

As with any first year implementation, there were a few issues with OSSI's external review board functionality. A lessons learned meeting was held and as a result, change requests were submitted for OSSI:SOLAR to streamline the selection process even further. Another challenge was that fewer students applied than in past years. Two big changes to improve this issue for next year will include updating the MUST project description on OSSI:SOLAR and completing a MUST website on the NASA Portal.

While GRC used the external review board functionality for MUST, the internal review panel functionality was used for selecting fellows and interns for the Graduate Student Researchers Program (GSRP) and Undergraduate Student Research Program (USRP). With the internal review panel, both mentors and reviewers internal to NASA were able to view and rate applications in a way that was easily accessible and centrally located.

Activities at GRC for Year Two include:

- The Center Education Office and Mission Directorates are on-boarding the center unique funding source into OSSI:SOLAR for summer internships. A change management plan is currently being implemented to facilitate this change.
- GRC's OSSI Center Administrator participated in a digital learning network (DLN) session in November 2011. This session was geared towards raising student awareness of OSSI:SOLAR and NASA's opportunities.



2011 MUST Scholars



OSSI Stakeholders' Spotlight

Student Spotlight

Noel Stewart / Marshall Space Flight Center / AIHEC

My name is Noel White Running Water Stewart and here is an overview about me, my educational hardships and how OSSI and AIHEC helped me to be where I am.

I was born in Spokane, Washington. Being 23 years old now and growing up on the Blackfoot Reservation in Browning, MT has made me a bit wiser. When I graduated from Browning High School in 2007, I went to the University of Montana to become an accountant. My initial experience on the University of Montana campus was a culture shock, as this was very different than growing up in a town of 8,000 people and on a reservation. So, I moved back home and graduated with three Associate Degrees from Blackfeet Community College (BCC): Business Management, Applied Math and Science, and General Science.

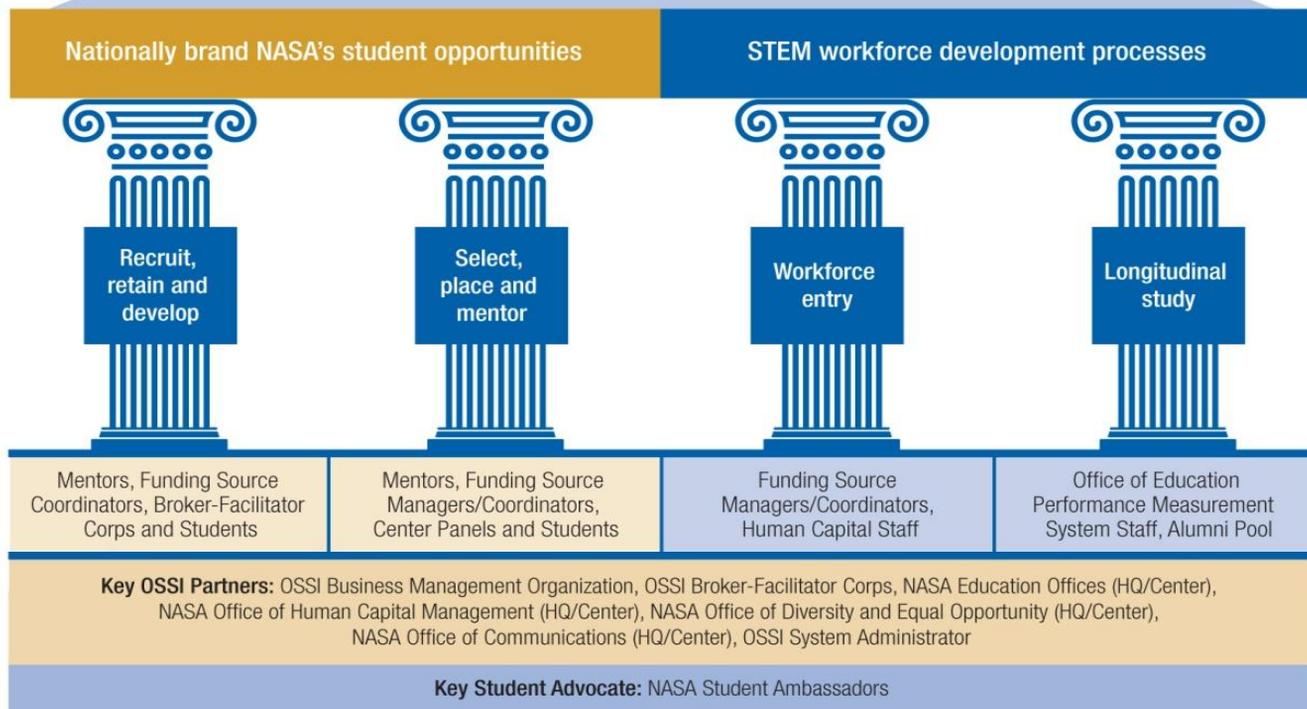
There is a difference when you have communication, a portal or should I say a network, to help you along your educational path. My boss, Mr. Estes here at the Marshall Space Flight Center, asked "What do you want to be when you grow up?" I replied, "If and when I grow up, I will tell you." We laughed. While I attended BCC, my Math professor asked if I'd like to participate in a NASA internship. I agreed to do so and chose to investigate the plant regeneration after the Red Eagle Fire of 2006 near Browning. I traveled to many conferences to present my work. I loved it so much I wanted to participate again this summer. Thanks to OSSI, students now have a portal and networks to apply to opportunities instead of just waiting for them to come around by word-of-mouth. The OSSI Application System allows for students to take advantage of amazing internships, fellowships and scholarships.

This past summer I participated in a 10 week internship at Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama. I could not have moved on to a Center or furthered my career without the help of AIHEC and OSSI. I was also selected as a MUST Scholar a few weeks ago through the OSSI Application System. This grants me another internship next year and helps me pay for college. When I go home, I will move on to Salish Kootenai College in Pablo, Montana to earn my Bachelors in Hydrology. My project this year with NASA is studying Storm and Climate driven salinity impacts on Seagrass Habitat Suitability in the Mobile Bay and adjacent estuaries. I plan to earn my Bachelors Degree and go on for a Masters in 2013. Hopefully, I will work on Climate Change impacts from an eco-hydrological perspective.



OSSI Strategic Model and Guiding Principles

Building a workforce pipeline for students engaged in NASA mission-related research, education and space exploration



Mission Enabling: One application, one point of entry to increase branding and access to all Agency-wide internship/fellowship opportunities for students pursuing degrees in STEM fields that meet NASA’s critical competency needs.

Application Integration: Promotes collaboration, standardization and integration of information related to the four OSSI pillars: 1. Student recruitment, retention and development; 2. Interns/fellows selection, placement, and mentoring; 3. Workforce entry, and; 4. Longitudinal study.

Secured Solutions: Implements, sustains, coordinates and secures information technology processes to protect privacy information from unauthorized disclosure in compliance with requirements outlined in the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 USC 3501-3520), Privacy Act of 1974 and amendments, and other federal laws, regulations, and guidance pertaining thereto.

Expert Advocacy: Culturally competent Broker-Facilitator Corps networking for selected types of institutions to enhance the recruitment and retention of highly qualified STEM students for the NASA workforce pipeline; and career path liaisons engaging, inspiring, and guiding STEM students toward career-self understanding.

