The impetus for this special edition derived from a meeting of the SOM Community Outreach Committee. It was evident during that meeting that Departments, Centers, and individual faculty and staff are participating in many community outreach events. Yet their participation and hard work are not generally known to either the community or within the school. This special edition of THE PULSE highlights only some of the programs in which LSUHSC SOM employees participate.

It is hoped there will be multiple outcomes from this edition of THE PULSE. First, we would like to acknowledge all of those who are taking time out of their busy schedules to participate in community outreach programs.

Some of these activities need volunteers, so it is hoped that this edition will encourage people to sign up. Some of these activities are related to and perhaps could benefit from different groups working together. After spending a lot of time initiating and planning a Faculty Senate Day of Service it was apparent that anyone planning an event could learn from those more experienced with setting up Community Outreach programs in New Orleans and/or with the appropriate contacts.

Finally, we’re sure that there are outreach activities performed by employees of the SOM not described in this special edition. The editorial staff encourages you to submit your community outreach work for a recurring section of THE PULSE devoted to ‘Community Outreach’. Please contact any of the editors (see sidebar for contact information) with your work.

Thanks to all for their input into this special edition and I apologize to those whose activities were not included in this edition. Let us know about you!

Joy Sturtevant, Ph.D.
Editor of Research Affairs
Clinical and Clinical Education

St. Bernard Family Resiliency and Recovery Project
Frequency: Weekly
@ Chalmette High School
The purpose of this program is to provide mental health treatment to children in St. Bernard Parish Schools who have been impacted by various types of trauma, including Hurricane Katrina and the Gulf oil spill. Clinicians provide individual and group therapy to students as well as consultation to teachers, faculty and parents addressing how to effectively meet the needs of these children. These services are provided weekly and year-round. Parenting workshops are also conducted two or three times a year. Topics for these workshops have included: Positive Discipline Strategies and How to Manage being a Single Parent. In addition, clinicians have worked alongside the Youth Leadership Program at Chalmette High School to teach students how to be effective leaders, how to manage stress and developing resiliency following trauma.
This program is funded by Baptist Community Ministries

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Gentilly Community Center of Hope
@ Gentilly
Accepts Volunteers
The Gentilly Community Center of Hope at the end of Robert E. Lee Blvd requires large numbers of volunteers and grant monies to help restore the gymnasium and 2 adjoining buildings that were former classrooms, create a field for sports on 3 acres of land, and create an after-care program for children that includes tutoring, computer access, and sports. This facility would serve as a hub for schools that need a free gym to practice football and basketball which would also help keep kids active in extracurricular activities and out of trouble.
Sponsoring Department: Medicine/ Pediatrics

Contact Information:
Betty Lo-Blais, MD
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(504)444-7879
(504)415-8498

The Journey Project (LA Cooperative)
The aim of this program is to provide support, direct services and consultation for students who have been placed in an alternative school program due to an emotional or behavioral disturbance. A multi-disciplinary team works together to address the needs of students from a biological, psychological and social perspective. Clinicians meet weekly with students and teachers to address effective behavioral management strategies in the classroom, provide insight into various emotional disturbances and treatment techniques and to teach students coping skills, to take responsibility for one’s actions and the importance of planning for the future.

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Saint Bernard Mental Health Collaboration with SBP
@ St. Bernard Parish
The Saint Bernard Project is a nationally recognized non-profit founded to address the housing needs of St. Bernard Parish following Hurricane Katrina. Given the severe trauma and stress experienced by those seeking housing assistance, the Project collaborated with LSUHSC-NO Department of Psychiatry to provide adjunctive mental health services. To date, the Saint Bernard Project mental health collaboration has provided psychiatric and psychological services to over 500 families. The clinic is staffed by a faculty psychiatrist, two psychiatry residents, two post-doctoral psychologists, and a faculty social worker. This collaboration is being used as a model in Joplin, Missouri following last years devastating tornado outbreak.
Sponsoring Group: Psychiatry Department

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St. Paul’s Homecoming Center
Accepts Volunteers
Dr. Lo is a board member of the St. Paul’s Homecoming Center whose primary mission is to help bring families post-Katrina back to their homes in Lakeview and Gentilly by providing volunteers throughout the United States to help rebuild homes and to landscape the neutral grounds; additionally, the Center has an outreach for Senior Citizens where they provide essential household items including food and household items, transportation, and fun activities like bingo. The ultimate goal is to help rebuild lives and restore hope for the future.
Sponsoring Department: Medicine/ Pediatrics

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Dr. Lo’s 23 Medicine/Pediatrics residents and 5 faculty have been actively providing free medical care in a makeshift clinic in the foyer of Mount Zion Methodist Church on 2700 Louisiana Avenue every Tuesday evening from 6pm-8pm since November 2007. 2 residents and one faculty see 10-20 patients per session including adults and children with acute and chronic problems. The residents and faculty work diligently to find medical homes for these patients. All nurses and ancillary personnel are volunteers.

Mardi Gras Marathon Medical Care

Yearly
@ Streets of New Orleans
Accepts Volunteers

Dr. Lo served as one of the local Medical Directors along with one of her Med/Peds faculty, Dr. Nicole Giambrone, for the annual Mardi Gras Marathon last year and again this year. We almost single-handedly recruited all of the volunteers for 13 tents which basically provided medical care to 18,000 runners, many of whom were our own LSU residents, students, nurses, and faculty.

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Community and Minority Health Education

CMHE Summer Science Program

This is an 8-week program for high school students who come to LSUHSC from around the state to experience an academically enriching environment and participate in educational, work, and motivational activities. Students are exposed to biomedical research, and have hands-on experience in medicine, nursing, dentistry, allied health and other health fields.

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Outreach Coordinator
LSU School Of Medicine
Office of Community and Minority Health Education
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gdavi6@lsuhsc.edu

CMHE High School Science

Club Competition Days
Community and Minority Health Education (CMHE) sponsors an 8-hour event conducted at LSUHSC. Science Clubs compete for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in essay writing, outstanding science club member, outstanding health poster, vocabulary and terminology drills, extemporaneous speaking, and problem solving. Minority faculty and students and community physicians serve as judges for contests.

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CMHE Career Awareness Days

Middle and high school students are brought to LSU Health Sciences Center for a full-day and given faculty overviews of medicine, nursing, dentistry, allied health, veterinary medicine, and pharmacy, followed by lunch with community physicians and interactive tours of laboratories given by basic scientists.

Contact Information:
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CMHE Science Enrichment Program

An after-school program for thirty (30) 7th graders. SEP is for 7th graders who have expressed an interest in heath careers and enjoy math and science. The classes, held at a New Orleans middle school two days per week for one-hour sessions, will not only sharpen science and mathematics skills but also improve test-taking skills for the 8th grade LEAP exam. High School Science Club members and LSU School of Medicine minority medical students serve as SEP tutors. Currently a this program is being re-established with a planned start date of Fall 2012.

Seventh and eighth graders from regional schools get first hand experience in the Summer Science Program.

Student members of the McDonough #35 Future Healthcare Professionals Club, and future Summer Science Program members, have a hands-on demonstration.
Medical Student Community Outreach

Pre-Health Professional Education

Every 6 weeks
@ Greater Gentilly Early College High School
Accepts Volunteers

Educate students on paths to healthcare and general concepts in healthcare. This includes panel discussions between medical students and High School students in Health Career Survey Class or Medical Terminology Classes. Students also get introductory lectures, e.g., basic anatomy. A focus is to actively encourage and engage the students. This is accomplished by choosing medical students from New Orleans with similar socioeconomic backgrounds to reinforce that the students can succeed. Additionally, activities are planned that include the students such as the students wear white coats and interview and present 'patients' to the class.

Contact Information:
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Inter-Professional Student Alliance (IPSA)

Monthly to weekly
We deliver volunteer programs at local public schools.
All other events are at LSUHSC downtown or dental campus.
Accepts Volunteers

The Inter-Professional Student Alliance has the threefold mission of 1) Increasing inter-professional communication and collaboration, 2) develop healthcare student cultural competencies through practice, and 3) positively affect public health through education.

In the Fall 2011, IPSA was developed with the first program being a Flu Prevention Program which was delivered by 12 students from the Schools of Dentistry, Public Health, Nursing, and Medicine in a local, open-enrollment charter school.

Starting in the Spring 2012, IPSA has delivered a 5 part, Sexual and Reproductive Health program to every student (over 350) at a local, open-enrollment high school. IPSA trained 45 student volunteers from the Schools of Nursing, Medicine, Allied Health and Xavier Pharmacy to deliver the comprehensive sexual and reproductive health program.

Moving forward, IPSA will continue to deliver preventative medicine programs through educational programs delivered in local public schools. Additionally, IPSA is developing a lecture series addressing inter-professional topics and events with the sole purpose of increasing inter-professional student communication.

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Operation Smile Concert Benefit

January 20th, 2012 (1st time fundraiser; one night)
Howlin’ Wolf on S. Peters (NOLA)
Accepts Volunteers

PARSIG, PIG, & SIGMA co-hosted the first LSUHSC Operation Smile Concert Benefit at the Howlin’ Wolf on January 20th, 2012, in New Orleans. Operation Smile, one of the most prominent international children charity organizations in the world with a presence in over 60 countries, is a not-for-profit mobilized force of medical professionals who provide safe, effective reconstructive surgery for children born with facial deformities such as cleft lip and cleft palate. Entertainment for the night was provided by members of SIGMA as they performed sets inspired by this year’s fundraiser theme—“I LOVE the 90s”. The event was a huge success with almost 400 people in attendance and raising nearly $4000 for Operation Smile.

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(504) 920-1327
PARSIG webpage on the SGA website

April 14, 2012
Join us as we celebrate and honor children from the New Orleans area who have been affected by children’s cancer.
Audubon Park
Shelter 10 by the Newman Bandstand
Pediatric Interest Group

The Pediatric Interest Group (PIG) is comprised of approximately 50 members interested in pursuing a career in Pediatrics. The purpose of the group is to provide its members with information about a career in Pediatrics. We hold lunch meetings throughout the year, and invite speakers from different areas of Pediatrics to present information about their careers. PIG provides valuable insight into the field of Pediatrics and allows its members to build relationships with professionals in the field of Pediatrics. PIG is collaborating with local Pediatric and Med/Ped residents to find avenues to better serve the youth of our community. In addition to volunteering with established volunteer projects, such as Habitat for Humanity and CureSearch Walk, our group is planning a Children's Health Screening Day on March 31, 2012 at Children's Hospital in New Orleans. Our goal is to provide local children with wellness physicals, as well as educate them in various health issues that they may face as adolescents. We would also like to promote the importance of physical activity by having various outdoor activities for the children. **We are in need of volunteers** to assist the medical students with the physicals and to help educate the youth on adolescent health issues. We would like this event to be a collaborative effort with all the local medical professionals, so volunteers from all medical professions would be greatly appreciated.

**Contact Information:**

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Student International Health Organization and Ethikos

Sante Total is a non-profit student organization founded by Tulane University medical student Alison Smith in 2007. With the collaboration of Gaby Thelus, a local community leader educated at Virginia Tech, Alison has worked to bring relief workers, medication, and funding for other basic projects to the small highland town of Jacsonville. The organization's goal from the beginning has been to build sustainable infrastructure in the town to meet basic standards of living. To date, the organization has constructed a school, mission house, and sugar mill in addition to employing 12 educators for the village's 400 children. In addition to this, local students, with the assistance of physicians from around the country, collaborate in Medical Mission trips every three months to bring affordable healthcare to anyone in the area who seeks it. The current project however, is to construct a clinic to meet the needs of the people of Jacsonville. The organization hopes to finish construction on the clinic within the next two years and raise funds for the salary of a full-time nurse to care for patients and educate the population on basic sanitation and disease spread between the quarterly medical missions.

In an effort to raise the $15,000 still needed to complete construction of the clinic, first and second year LSU medical students that recently volunteered on a medical mission trip are organizing a gala that will be held in the fall of 2012. We hope to make this an annual event to provide the Jacsonville community with the funds necessary to sustain the medical clinic. The gala is still in the preliminary planning stages, and we are still in need of a location, band, food, etc. Any contribution to make the gala a success would be greatly appreciated.

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Tiger Cubs

Establish long-term role models and education about careers in health care to middle and high school students in the Bayou District Foundation. The initial program will start with a one-to-one mentorship between a LSU medical student and one of ten students who attended Usher's New Look leadership conference (Summer 2011). Mentors and mentees will attend a variety of activities in 6 meetings. Hopefully this program will expand into accepting additional mentees based on the number of student volunteers. In addition mentors and mentees will maintain relationships over the course of years with mentors assisting the mentee in managing the issues that arise in adolescence and helping them to make a plan to attend college and achieve career goals. Also, parts of the mentorship will be used to develop the mentees' interest in health care.

**Contact Information:**

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LSU SOM volunteers on a health care mission to Haiti
Society for Neuroscience (SfN) Brain Awareness Week

**Yearly**  
**Accepts Volunteers**

Brain Awareness Week (BAW) is a global campaign to elevate public awareness about the progress and benefits of brain and nervous system research. While BAW takes place each year in March, neuroscience education and outreach is encouraged year-round. In 2012, BAW will be March 12-18.

BAW offers opportunities for the public to learn from neuroscience researchers and for teachers and students to engage in fun educational activities. Events include dynamic classroom presentations and laboratory tours, enlightening museum exhibits and public lectures, with the goal of inspiring the next generation of scientists, contributing to general understanding of brain functions and improving public health by expanding awareness of neurological disorders. This is achieved locally by sponsoring events for children and adults to highlight the importance of brain research and the achievements of local and internationally-recognized investigators with research seminars. Every year, the SfN local chapter (the Greater New Orleans chapter or GNOSN) has sponsored seminars, and done demonstrations at the Children's Museum and the Children's Resource Center. In the future, we also plan to work with the Science Partnership Program to give a one-day conference to 4th grade science teachers to demonstrate modules to assist in teaching science and improve scores on the LEAP test.

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http://gnosn.tulane.edu/

APS Science Fair Awards

**Yearly**  
**Accepts Volunteers**

*St. Benilde Elementary School, Metairie, LA*

American Physiological Society Member, Lisa M Harrison-Bernard, PhD, Associate Professor of Physiology at LSU Medical School served as a science fair judge at St. Benilde Elementary School on January 12, 2012. She presented 7th grader Victoria Shields with an APS Science Fair award for her project titled, “What type of bag will preserve fruit for the longest amount of time? Will it be a clear plastic bag, a brown paper bag, a green bag, a black garbage bag, or a mesh bag?” Victoria received an APS t-shirt, Physiology Researcher lapel pin, and an APS Certificate for the best physiology project. Mrs. Diane McCann, science teacher received the APS book, Women Life Scientists: Past, Present, and Future and a resource packet for all of the 7th grade students.

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504-568-6171  
http://www.the-aps.org/mm/Education/K-12/Programs/APS20Science20Fair%20Awards  
American Physiological Society  
Must be an active member to participate in the program.

LSU-New Orleans Schools Science Partnership Program

*4 times per week*  
*Benjamin Banneker Elementary School*  
*Langston Hughes Academy Charter School*

The goal of the program is to improve 4th graders’ performance in the LEAP exam in science, and to encourage them to have fun while they learn. Graduate students, medical students, and faculty volunteer to teach at two partner schools, twice a week. A holiday book drive throughout the LSU Health Sciences resulted in more than 300 elementary school books and 900 comic books which were donated to the children.

Directors are Dr. Fern Tsien and Dr. Udai Pandey, both faculty from the Department of Genetics. Dr. Jaime Becnel, a post-doctoral fellow from the Department of Pharmacology, works with Drs. Tsien and Pandey.

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LSUHSC surgical oncology resident Dr. Michael Hall teaching at Langston Hughes Elementary School.
Physiology Understanding Week (PhUn Week)
Yearly during November
Accepts Volunteers
St. Benilde Elementary School, Metairie, LA
PhUn Week is a nationwide outreach program building connections between scientists and their local schools. PhUn Week activities increase student awareness of physiology in their lives and enhance student interest in physiology as a possible career. PhUn Week is distinctive for two reasons: 1) it fosters grassroots partnerships between biomedical researchers and K-12 teachers, and 2) it is carried into classrooms by “citizen scientists” composed of a senior researcher along with his or her undergraduate, graduate, or postdoctoral students.

American Physiological Society Member, Lisa M Harrison-Bernard, PhD, Associate Professor of Physiology at LSU Medical School visited St. Benilde Elementary School on in November, 2011 with physiology graduate students Annie Whitaker and Travis Doggett and pharmacology graduate student Kavaljit Chhabra. They presented the following to 6th and 7th graders: (52 total) what is a physiologist, review of scientific method, share scientific poster, discuss heart and respiration rate, students measure heart and respiratory rate at rest and exercise - during visit; assignment before visit - complete my health lifestyle inventory, complete hypothesis for exercise. The APS provides T-shirts for the presenters, gifts for the students (backpack and squeezy heart), and prizes.

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504-568-6171
http://www.the-aps.org/mm/Education/K-12/EducationProjects/PhUn-Week
American Physiological Society
Must be an active member to participate in the program.

LSUHSC/Patrick F. Taylor Hands-on Workshops for Louisiana K-12 students
1 day long/intermittent
@ Benjamin Franklin High School, Chalmette High School, Destrehan High School, Donaldsonville High School, East Ascension High School, Greater Gentilly High School, Hahnville High School, Patrick F. Taylor Science and Technology Academy, St. Martin's Episcopal School, Sarah T. Reed High School, South Lafourche High School
Accept Volunteers

The goal of this program is to make health science topics more interesting and accessible, to motivate students to improve their grades as they consider careers in the health sciences. The workshops are coordinated with the school teachers to maximize the level of student learning and complement their classroom curriculum and academic level. The workshops are funded through an education grant awarded to Dr. Tsien from the Patrick F. Taylor Foundation. Graduate students and medical students serve as mentors to the students as they assist with the experiments. Mr. Daryl Lofaso instructs the highly interactive Human Simulation Laboratory in the Learning Center.

Since the funding began from 2009 until the present, through at least 31 workshops, more than 880 students from rural and urban K-12 schools from a variety of socioeconomic backgrounds have been exposed to science education. In collaboration with school teachers, the K-12 Hands-on Workshop Program has proven to have enhanced the students’ current school curriculum. Typically, the elementary and middle school workshops are held at the schools and the high schools usually attend a morning-long field trip at LSUHSC. These workshops also serve to promote the Genetics Department, LSUHSC, and LSUSOM in making the public aware of the high quality of learning opportunities which exist in our institution.

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High School & Undergraduate Student Summer Research Internship Opportunities

8 weeks every summer
@ LSUHSC-SOM, Tulane UHSC and Children’s Hospital
Accept Volunteers

The Summer Research Internship Program provides research experiences for medical students, undergraduates, and high school students in Louisiana. The program works to cultivate students’ interest in pursuing medical and research careers in either the basic or clinical sciences. Students spend 8-weeks in the program during the summer. Interns are matched with mentors in laboratories or clinics at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center, Tulane University Health Sciences Center, or Children’s Hospital of New Orleans.

Students learn laboratory techniques used in medical research and attend weekly seminars. All students present their research results at the end of the summer at a poster session or oral symposium. In addition, they receive training in presentation skills, including how to prepare a presentation at a scientific meeting. This program has succeeded in providing over 200 students with a meaningful research experience. Because of this program, some of Louisiana’s best and brightest undergraduates, who attend school elsewhere, have been introduced to the opportunities available in their home state. After completing their internship, many student interns present their data at medical or scientific conferences, or have their research published in medical or scientific journals.

This program is funded by the LSUHSC’s Department of Genetics, Louisiana Gene Therapy Consortium, the Louisiana Vaccine Center, the Louisiana Cancer Research Consortium, the LSU School of Medicine, Tulane School of Medicine, the National Institutes of Health, and the Patrick F. Taylor Foundation.

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BrainCake

The Girls, Math & Science Partnership’s mission is to engage, educate, and embrace girls as architects of change. Working with girls age 11 - 17 and their parents, teachers, and mentors, we draw organizations, stakeholders, and communities together in an effort to ensure that girls succeed in math and science.

Girls look up to others who are pioneers and changing the world by being themselves – from mechanical engineers to mathematicians. BrainCake interviews mentors for our She’s Livin’ It section on the site.

Do you use math and science to change the world? Join your LSUHSC colleagues and sign up to be an online mentor.

The Greater New Orleans Science and Engineering Fair

February
@ UNO Human Performance Center
Accept volunteers

The Greater New Orleans Science and Engineering Fair (GNOSEF) is one of the oldest such fairs in the nation and is sustained by Women for a Better Louisiana through many hours of volunteer work. The GNOSEF needs judges for eighteen senior division and five junior division categories. Every year the local chapter of AWIS organizes a group of volunteers to help with judging.

Contact Information:
Judging coordinator – Nancy Hopkins
AWIS outreach committee chair – Kyla Frohlich
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http://gnosef.tulane.edu/index.html

Tiger Run 2012

LSU Health Sciences Center School of Medicine in New Orleans
5k Run/Walk to Benefit the LSU Student Run Homeless Clinics
www.medschool.lsuhsc.edu/tigerrun

The 25th annual Tiger Run is scheduled for Saturday, April 21st, 2012 at 8:00 am at Audubon Park in New Orleans. Tiger Run is a 5K Run/Walk organized by the LSU Health Sciences Center School of Medicine. The proceeds raised from Tiger Run benefit charitable projects organized by medical students including the LSU School of Medicine student-run homeless clinics. We are proud to say that LSU medical students have operated these clinics for the homeless of New Orleans for over 20 years.

Entry forms must be received by Friday, April 13th.
Teams of 4 participants may register with their own unique team name.
Super Science Saturday

October
@ Louisiana Children's museum
Accept Volunteers

Super Science Saturday is held every October at the Louisiana Children's museum and is in association with the American Chemical Society. Local universities, government labs, students, etc bring their own demonstrations, experiments or activities to the museum. We set up tables throughout and the kids go though the stations. Last year we had over 700 kids. The local chapter of AWIS organizes a group from LSUHSC every year to host several demonstrations/activities.

Contact Information:
AWIS outreach committee chair – Kyla Frohlich
Super Science Saturday Coordinator – Stassi DiMaggio
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Warren Easton STEM Partnership Program

Warren Easton High School

STEM Academy students are among the best and brightest students at Warren Easton High School. The STEM Academy program meets after school and provides the students with enrichment and technology experiences tailored to best fit their interests. Dr. Gregory is also a member of the STEM Academy Advisory Council, providing input on all the programs. She has ten activities planned for the students, culminating with a field trip to the LSUHSC campus.

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High School DNA Education Program

Once per year
Mandeville High School, Ben Franklin High School, Haynes Academy and St. Mary's Dominican H.S
Accept Volunteers

Work with several area high schools to conduct PCR and gel electrophoresis in the classroom.

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Paula Gregory
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DNA Biotechnology Summer Camp (Northshore)

One time per year
@ Mandeville High School
Accept Volunteers

Weeklong summer camp for students throughout the northshore; provides hands on biotech activities centered around genetics, seminars by scientists and a tour of the LSUHSC campus.

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Paula Gregory
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Benjamin Franklin High School

High School Science Fair

Yearly - January
@ Benjamin Franklin High School
Accept Volunteers

Every year the local chapter of AWIS organizes a group of volunteers to help with judging. Winners go onto the Greater New Orleans Science and Engineering Fair.

Contact Information:
Coordinator of Judges – Mary Mysing-Gubala
AWIS outreach committee chair – Kyla Frohlich
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