Welcome all! This newsletter will be where you can get all the updates and information about the STEM Scholars Program. We will continually feature our accomplishments and current projects so our community can stay included and up to date.

For our October feature we have a lot of projects we’ve been working on despite the unique challenges our new virtual world presents. We have been attending conferences, presenting research, starting businesses, engaging in community service, and more! We encourage you to read more in our very first edition of The Scholar Scoop. Please enjoy!
The STEM Scholars Program for Excellence is a grant partnership between the Hampton University School of Science and the United States Department of Defense. Scholars who are a part of the program, engage in research internships with various military research labs of the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines. The grant serves as a means to increase the number of minority students in research STEM capacities. The program began in 2018 with a total of 16 scholars. Scholars represent a variety of STEM majors including Chemistry, Molecular Biology, Chemical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Computer Science, Mathematics, and Physics. Throughout the program, there is a wide array of career aspirations however, many scholars have expressed interest in obtaining a Ph.D. in a STEM-related field of research. All members of the program have participated in research projects with a mentor with a few select scholars being awarded the opportunity to present their research at upcoming conferences.
Meet our Stemmie of the month, Amanda Harvey! Amanda is a junior, cellular & molecular biology major from Woolwich, New Jersey. This past summer, Amanda completed a 10-week internship with Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (WRAIR) in the Medical Readiness Systems Biology Lab, where she analyzed PTSD on the molecular level within mice. Even more, Amanda was recently selected to present her research from this past summer at the The Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS) conference this November. Along with being a full time student, Amanda is a supplemental instructor in Calculus 1 for the Student Support Services at Hampton University and also tutors for the STEM Scholars K-12 Hampton Roads Community tutoring program. In addition to volunteering her time as a tutor, Amanda serves on the executive board for the Hampton University Minority Association of Pre-Medical Students (MAPS), and is a member of Hampton's Student Recruitment Team and Generation Action. Amanda is very involved on campus, but she is equally active outside of school. She currently works as an Emergency Medical Technician and runs her own hair care business, AVHOrganics. After graduating from Hampton University, Amanda aspires to go to Physician Assistant school to receive her MPAS and then become a certified Physician Assistant.
Due to the COVID19 pandemic, many students have been pushed towards the new world of virtual learning. This was highly recommended by several school and government officials all around the country in an effort to keep children safe. However, instead of being in a classroom where students can actually engage and interact, they have been learning to adapt to this new version of “school on a screen”. Even though there is a segment of students who actually prefer online school, there is an overwhelming number of students who are struggling. Fortunately, some families can afford the tutoring and resources their student needs to stay on track, but for some this is a financial burden they can not undertake due to the circumstances of this crisis. The Stem Scholars Program decided to create a community service initiative to provide free tutoring services to students in grades K-12 who are struggling financially in the Hampton Roads community.
This initiative will allow the stem scholars to give students the extra support they need to do well in their courses. Safety measures have also been put in place as well to keep everyone safe, such as having all tutoring sessions be conducted via zoom. This unique opportunity allows the stem scholars to use their knowledge gained over the years at Hampton University and give back to the community in such a meaningful way.

"I am getting calls daily from parents desperate for any help for their child as this online learning has only widened the education gap already present. My heart breaks for these students that have been left behind by the very education system tasked to prepare them for life. However, though this realization has been hard to come to and accept, it has ignited a new passion in me to do everything I can to help bridge the gap." states Samara White

Similarly, to White, many of our other tutors such as, Zion Walker, love the idea of giving back to the Hampton Roads community. Not only do they love serving the community, but they enjoy seeing the students progress as well. Amanda Harvey finds it rewarding, especially when the students are eager and receptive to her tutoring. Many students and parents participating in this initiative have already expressed their gratitude for this invaluable program, despite being its first week! The stemmies look forward to seeing how their students will excel throughout the next couple of months. If you know a student or a parent who needs free tutoring for their child, share the link below so they can access the full list of tutors!

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Ws0kjGsGd9Al9V3WtDm_xjl40aRXgtrxvLt0LgEi20/edit?usp=sharing
Amanda Harvey is a future female business mogul! Harvey is the owner of AVHOrganics, a company that promotes healthy hair and scalps. Harvey hopes that through her company she can educate people on quality treatments and maintenance of natural hair. Let's support our black owned businesses. Go check out her website! www.avhorganics.com

Selena Makell was chosen as the captain of The Marching Force's Ebony Fire Dance Team for the 2020-2021 season! Makell has been a member HU's marching band for two years and is currently on her third. Also her research from her summer internship with the Department of Defense was selected to be presented at the American Geophysical Union's Fall 2020 meeting. Congratulations on these two wonderful achievements!

Janelle Mabrey was offered the opportunity to continue her internship with the Army Research Lab until October of 2021! The goal of her research is to develop software routines for the automated characterization of reactive porous silicon. Mabrey also wants to produce a machine learning algorithm that will use captured images to determine any defects of the devices within this system. You're on the right track! Keep going strong!
STEM SCHOLAR PROGRAM CONFERENCE

Scheduled for February

The Stem Scholars have also been taking advantage of some of their downtime during the pandemic by participating in and attending virtual scientific conferences. In light of this, the stemmies will be hosting the official Stem Scholars Program Conference in November to highlight their joint research projects with the Department of Defense. This past summer, each scholar participated in a virtual internship with the Department of Defense in which they conducted research with a mentor in their area of interest. This event will display each student's project and serve as the culmination of all their hard work and dedication. The event will also feature guest speaker, Dr. Ernest Yufenyuy, from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. More details coming soon!