Broadening Minority Participation in the Biological Sciences: A Workshop for Undergraduate Students

Space for this workshop is limited. To register, complete the online registration form [1]. Please visit the workshop agenda for more information on the day's activities.


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The North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences [2] and iDigBio [3] are pleased to announce a free workshop and career shadowing opportunity for undergraduate students focusing on career and graduate study opportunities in biology, biodiversity, ecology, museum studies, and evolution. This is a two day event, with Friday focused on shadowing and tours in the scientific collections of the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences and Saturday focused on a series of short talks, interspersed with firsthand collections tours. Participants may attend one or both days. One of the primary goals is increasing minority participation in the biological sciences within such groups as African and Black Americans, Native Americans, and individuals of Hispanic ethnicity. However, the workshop and shadowing events are open to any college freshman, sophomore, junior, senior, or recent graduate who is thinking about graduate study or a career in biology.

As part of the application process, participants will be able to select up to two museum collections they wish to shadow, including fishes, reptiles, amphibians, invertebrates (insects and other arthropods), fossil (both vertebrate and invertebrate), geology, birds, and mammals as well as the astronomy and astrophysics, genomics and microbiology, biodiversity, and paleontology and geology labs. We will do our best to honor first and second choices. Attendees will also be able to select shorter tours from this list as part of the Saturday workshop. Click here to complete the online application [1] and here for the Saturday agenda.

The workshop will be held at the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences Friday and Saturday, October 2-3, 2015. Friday's shadowing and collections tours will begin at 9:00 a.m. Saturday's workshop will begin at 10:00 a.m. with a keynote address by Dr. Scott Edwards [4], professor of organismic and evolutionary biology at Harvard University and former division director at the U.S. National Science Foundation.

Coffee and pastries will be provided each day, beginning at 8:30 a.m. on Friday and 9:30 a.m. Saturday. Lunch will be provided and will include a special opportunity to interact with...
undergraduate and graduate students, post-doctoral fellows, workshop speakers, museum professionals, and biology faculty from several universities. The end of the day will feature a reception and mixer with heavy hors d’oeuvres and the opportunity to win one of ten $25.00 Amazon gift cards as well as allow further opportunities for individualized conversation, personal attention, and networking.

Friday’s shadowing opportunities will provide opportunities to interact with museum scientists and get hands-on experiences inside the scientific collections. Saturday’s presentations will offer advice on undergraduate curriculum decisions, information about scholarships and financial aid, opportunities for on- and off-campus research for undergraduate students, opportunities for international travel, and the attraction of contemporary methods in biological research. Speakers will include an array of academic and field biologists, post-doctoral fellows, and graduate students.

Participation is limited and acceptance is on a first-come, first-served basis. Register soon to reserve your place. To register, complete the online registration form.

For more information, e-mail: Gil Nelson (gnelson@bio.fsu.edu).

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Links
[1] https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1EBTG_4hBHOZCDK_JMWIG8TengkKv2yp6lXCTpZTgaWA/viewform
[5] mailto:gnelson@bio.fsu.edu