



Broward Student Shine at Research Symposium

Boca Raton, Fla. (March 23, 2016) — Seven Broward students emerged as the big winners in the *Sixth Annual Broward Student Research Symposium* held Friday at the FAU Davie campus.

The annual student research symposium provides researchers in the categories of doctoral, masters and undergraduate the opportunity to present their projects. A panel of judges comprised of faculty selects the best project in each category. This year's winners are:

Doctoral Winner	Saheed Oluwasina Oseni
Master's Winners	Douglas Holmes Chad Coarsey Reen Varghese
Undergraduate Winners	Jessica Brandwein Marina Shehata Adrianne Dias

Over 50 students, guided by their faculty advisors, participated this year.

"Since FAU has made undergraduate research part of the strategic plan, there has been a significant increase in the number of faculty members that are mentoring student research projects," said Dr. Donald Torok, Associate Dean, College of Education, Broward Campuses, who also served as the emcee and host of the event. "Along with this greater mentoring activity, the number and quality of the research projects across all levels continues to rise. The confidence and knowledge that the students exhibit is a true reflection of how this mentored research activity helps to build better graduates."

In the doctoral category, **Saheed Oluwasina Oseni**, a student in the Charles E. Schmidt College of Science, Department of Biological Sciences won for his project: Dietary Phytonutrients Inhibit Redox Reprogramming in Radioresistent Metastatic Prostate Cancer Cells. His faculty mentor is Dr. James Kumi-Diaka.

In the master's category, **Douglas Holmes, Chad Coarsey and Reen Varghese**, students in the Charles E. Schmidt College of Science, Department of Biological Sciences, Microbial Biotechnology Lab; and Micro and Nanotechnologies for Medicine, Department of Computer & Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, won for their project: Creation and Authentication of a Safe Ebola Virus Surrogate Using Synthetic Biology. Their faculty mentor is Dr. Nwadiuto Esiobu.

In the undergraduate category, **Jessica Brandwein, Marina Shehata and Adrianne Dias**, students in the Charles E. Schmidt College of Sciences, Department of Biological Sciences won for their project, Community Structure of the Human Skin Microbiome and Evaluation of its Forensic Match to Bacteria from Personal Mobile Devices. Their faculty mentor is Dr. Nwadiuto Esiobu.

"The very high quality of the graduate and undergraduate research projects presented here by our Broward students contributes to the measures that place FAU as number one in the performance rankings of state universities," said FAU Broward Associate Provost Anthony Abbate.