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# FYI (For Your Information)

Volume IV, Issue I

May 20, 2009

## Saturday Academy at the Friday Institute

The NCSU NC-MSEN Pre-College Program held its annual Winter session of Saturday Academy from January - March 2009 for six Saturdays. Our high school program offered classes in mathematics, science, SAT Prep critical reading, and career awareness. For our middle school program, classes were offered in robotics, mathematics, science, and communications.

For the high school students, our mathematics class provides academic support for our students. If a student is currently enrolled in geometry for example, the student takes our geometry course which provides assistance with any challenges that the student encounters. The teacher is also prepared to assist the students with "getting ahead" with their course as well. Our newest class, the career awareness course, is taught by one of our guidance counselor's, Mr. Claude Lee, who has 20+ years of experience as a guidance counselor at SE Raleigh High School. He monitors each of our students to ensure that they are receiving all of the important information that is needed for each grade level. Unfortunately in this day and age, each school is not able to provide all of the important information that students need

for success such as scholarship information. Some students are not on the correct track to adequately prepare for college admissions. One of our seniors stated how much he has benefited from this new course.

Our communications course focuses on written and oral communications. For example, our middle school teacher, Ms. Izzard, taught students how to write a speech. Many adults are expected to give oral presentations in their jobs, but many are never taught how to give a proper presentation. This will hopefully put our students ahead of others in this area.

During each Saturday Academy, outside guests are also invited to provide information on programs or to serve as role models in the STEM fields to the students. NCSU's Admissions Office attends on an annual basis to provide vital information to our high school students on general UNC System university admissions requirements as well as information on NCSU's admission requirements.

In addition, another annual visitor is the College of Foundation of North Carolina. They provide great information to our parents and students on how to utilize its resources in finding all



**Vern Granger, Senior Associate Director of Admissions, talks about the college admissions process with NCSU NC-MSEN Pre-College Program high school students.**

types of financial aid.

Finally, our program concluded on March 28 with a visitation to our facilities at the Friday Institute and Centennial Campus Middle School. The middle school program ended on March 28 with an all day robotics competition that was held in the school's cafeteria. Several teams had the daunting task of building and programming their Lego NXT Mindstorm robot to successful drive through a 10 foot by 6 foot maze. The winning team represented NCSU's NC-MSEN Pre-College Program at our annual statewide MSEN Day competition.



Mr. Bryant assists a Phillip Jordan with his water bottle rocket. Phillip and his partner, Taurean Lynch, won and represented NCSU at MSEN Day 2009.

## Mini-Runoff: Get's You Ready for MSEN Day!!

On a brisk afternoon in early March, NCSU NC-MSEN Pre-College program students gathered together on a Saturday afternoon to compete in the annual Mini-Runoff.

The annual event takes place roughly one month in advance of the program's annual MSEN Day. Students come to Poe Hall on NCSU's Main Campus and compete in events such as the parachute egg drop contest, the water bottle rockets competition, the engineering and design competition, the poster art contest, the mystery architecture contest, the oratorical competition, and "write it—do it" competition.

Each event has a middle school and high school division. Several teams competed for each contest, and the winning teams are invited to compete against other NC-MSEN Pre-College students at the annual MSEN Day competition.

MSEN Day is held each year in April. The event is hosted by a UNC System university that has a NC-MSEN Pre-College Program. This year, the event was held at Winston-Salem State University for the first time.

In addition, students may compete in academic contests at MSEN Day. Academic contests

are offered in many of the major mathematics and science courses that are offered in middle and high schools across North Carolina. Subjects such as 6th grade math, algebra I for middle school students, algebra II, and calculus are a few of math contests. In addition, in the science area, contests are offered for courses such as 6th grade science, physical science, chemistry, and physics. Currently at our Mini-Runoff, we do not have a competition for the academic contests. Students are selected based upon teacher recommendations and their grades in their math and science classes.



Two students are working on a structure at Saturday Academy in preparation for MSEN

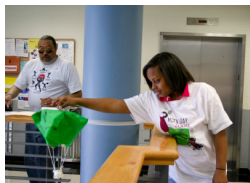
## NCSU NC-MSEN Pre-College Program Receives National Recognition

If you searched for the December 2008 volume of the Metropolitan Universities Journal, you will find an interesting article about the NCSU NC-MSEN Pre-College Program. Through NC State University's invitation to participate in a consortium of urban universities, the NCSU NC-MSEN Pre-College Program has received recognition in a national journal.

The article was written jointly by former Dean Kathryn

Moore and Program Coordinator, Braska Williams Jr. The article was written back in the fall 2008, and program received a monetary award for its participation in this prestigious consortium. Dean Moore and Williams attended meetings in San Antonio, TX and Washington, D.C. where they gave presentations to other universities on the program. They also discussed issues with other universities such as high school dropout rates, college access

for urban students, and other educational issues that are prevalent across the country.



**A NCSU NC-MSEN PCP student drops her parachute egg basket in the Parachute Egg Drop Competition at MSEN Day at Winston-Salem State University.**

## MSEN DAY: NCSU NC-MSEN Pre-College Program Rolls

MSEN Day 2009 was sweet again for the NCSU NC-MSEN Pre-College Program. Last year, NCSU's NC-MSEN PCP won the overall first place trophy for MSEN Day. At MSEN Day, each university site is ranked one to nine based upon the overall number of first, second, and third place team finishes of its students.

This year, the NCSU NC-MSEN Pre-College Program placed second overall at the MSEN Day event. It was a joyous ride home for many of our

students. In the events that we competed, the majority of our students placed either first, second, or third place.

Congratulations to our students for an awesome job!!

The NCSU NC-MSEN PCP staff even received an e-mail from someone who attended MSEN Day that asked how did we prepare our students to perform so well.

Over the past five years, NCSU has placed first two times, sec-

ond once, and third place once. The only year that NCSU did not place was the year that NCSU hosted MSEN Day in 2006.

### Summer Opportunities Are Plentiful for MSEN Students

Summer is a time of rest and enrichment for students. The NC-MSEN Pre-College Program at NC State is please to offer two opportunities for its students for the summer of 2009.

Our annual Summer Scholars program will be offered during the weeks of June 22—26 and July 6—10. It will be an exciting time for our middle and high school students. Middle school students will take classes in

math, science, robotics, and communications while high school students will take classes in math, science, career awareness, and communications.

All classes will occur in the mornings, and students will eat lunch daily in the one of NCSU's Dining Halls. In addition, the afternoons will be packed with activities such as departmental tours and presentations/activities from NCSU

faculty and staff.

In partnership with the Food Science Department at NCSU and the USDA, two high school students will have the opportunity to participate in a paid research experience. The students will earn \$9.36 per hour and spend time learning microbiology, DNA fingerprinting, and basic food science.



**Greg Terrell explains his research project to one of the judges at the annual EnvironMentors Symposium at the Friday Institute.**

### EnvironMentors Provides Opportunities for Scholarships

Six NCSU NC-MSEN Pre-College Students participated in the EnvironMentors program during the 2008-09 school year. EnvironMentors is a national program based in Washington, D.C. that provides opportunities for underserved students to complete an environmental science research project. The program matches each student with a mentor from the environmental science industry such as a college faculty member or a person who works in

the private sector or the government. Students complete the project in stages spread over the school year.

Students who participate through NCSU's chapter present at the university's research symposium which is for college students.

The program holds a local symposium where students are judged. The local symposium was hosted by the NCSU NC-

MSEN Pre-College Program at the Friday Institute. The top three students receive a free trip to Washington, D.C. where they compete against students nationally.

The top winners nationally receive a \$10,000 scholarship for college.

Kerrel Gomes, a NCSU NC-MSEN PCP student, placed second overall and received a trip to Washington, D.C.

NC STATE  
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MSEN PRE-COLLEGE  
PROGRAM

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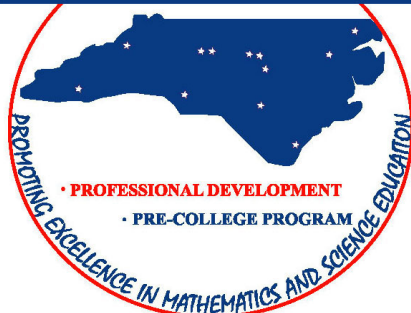
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**NC-MSEN**

NORTH CAROLINA MATHEMATICS AND  
SCIENCE EDUCATION NETWORK



NC STATE UNIVERSITY NC-MSEN PRE-COLLEGE PROGRAM NC-MSEN PRE-  
COLLEGE PROGRAM

**Saturday Academy, Winter  
Session**

January 24 and 31, 2009

February 7 and 21, 2009

March 7 and 28, 2009

**Parent Workshops:**

**CFNC: Get an Early Start  
on Financial Aid for your  
child**

March 28, 2009

11 a.m.—Wachovia Hall,  
Friday Institute

**Presenter: Sarita Broadway,  
College Foundation of North  
Carolina**

**College Tours: Elizabeth  
City State University**

Saturday, January 31, 2009

**Mini-Runoff (after Saturday  
Academy)**

Saturday, March 7, 2009

12:30 - 2:30 p.m.

**MSEN DAY 2009**

Winston-Salem State Uni-  
versity

April 4, 2009

**MSEN 23rd Annual Awards  
Ceremony**

Tuesday, May 5, 2009

6:30 p.m.—Witherspoon  
Student Center—NCSU  
Campus

**EnvironMentors Sympo-  
sium**

Thursday, May 7, 2009 - 6  
p.m.—Friday Institute

*Summer Scholars Program*

June 22—26, 2009 and July 6  
— 10, 2009  
NCSU Main Campus