



Media Release Public Relations

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Riva Brown

Date: November 16, 2006

Administration Tower, Second Floor
Post Office Box 17490
Jackson, MS 39217
Fax: (601) 979-5833
Phone: (601) 979-1571
Web: www.jsums.edu
E-mail: riva.brown@jsums.edu

SCIENCE STUDENTS ENCOURAGED TO MAKE RESEARCH MATTER

(JACKSON, Miss.) – Conduct community-based research that can give meaning to the lives of the common man. Translate research in terms that can benefit the nation and the world.

Those were some of the charges leading scientists and researchers gave about 200 students attending the 2006 National Research Symposium on Thursday at the Mississippi e-Center @ JSU.

The goal of the third annual event is to showcase faculty-mentored research of undergraduate and graduate students in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics disciplines. It also is designed to foster the leadership and professional development of students. The symposium will continue through Saturday, Nov. 18.

“People of color ... have to play a significant part in the production of scientists and researchers who can impact the country in the next 15 years or more,” said Dr. Mark Hardy, interim dean of Jackson State University’s College of Science, Engineering and Technology.

Dr. Daniel Sarpong, a senior biostatistician at the Jackson Heart Study Coordinating Center, told attendees they must leverage their opportunities, talents and resources. Sarpong said some of the elements of leveraging include being a creative thinker, not being afraid to fail, going the extra mile, leaving your comfort zone, starting with the end in mind and being a problem solver.

He shared a personal story of leaving a secure career as a tenured professor to work for the Jackson Heart Study, an epidemiological investigation of cardiovascular disease among African Americans in the Jackson metro area.

“Success is not achieved in your comfort zone,” Sarpong said.

About the National Research Symposium

The National Research Symposium is sponsored by the Louis Stokes Mississippi Alliance for Minority Participation; Research Initiative for Scientific Enhancement; Minority Access to Research Careers; and the Support of Competitive Research programs. LSMAMP is made up of students from Jackson State University, Alcorn State University, Delta State University, Mississippi Valley State University, Mississippi State University, Tougaloo College, the University of Mississippi and the University of Southern Mississippi.

-JSU-