



# NIH BUILD



## DIVERSITY PROGRAM CONSORTIUM

Supported by the National Institutes of Health

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# PROJECT PATHWAYS

*Building Integrated Pathways To Independence For Diverse Biomedical Researchers*

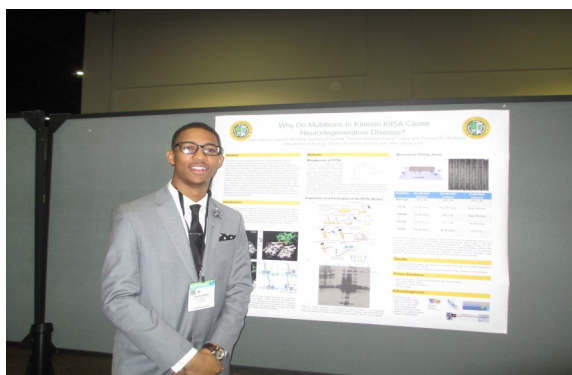
## Annual Biomedical Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS)

ABRCMS is a professional conference for underrepresented minority students interested in pursuing advanced studies and training in biomedical disciplines. The conference was held on November 9-12, 2016 in Tampa, FL. The conference provided many valuable resources to students, faculty, student-training program directors and staff to prepare students for careers in biomedical fields. Xavier University had a group of 39 students attend the conference. ABRCMS allowed the students to present their research and network with representatives from graduate programs, and STEM professionals about research opportunities and funding sources.

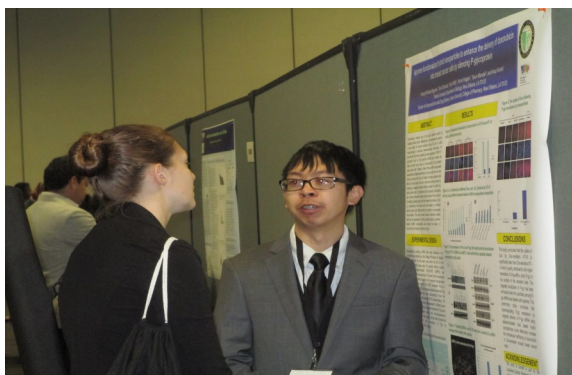
Xavier's BUILD Program, Project Pathways, is now in its third year and has established a presence. Eighteen undergraduate students and two post-baccalaureate technicians attended the conference. Nineteen Xavier BUILD attendees made presentations at the meeting. Khari Gilmore and Huang Michael Nguyen received awards for their poster presentations.



L-R: Brionna King, Kendale Watson, Tajhshea Walden, Khari Gilmore, Nhu Tran, Tyjah Saulsberry, Aliyah Jones, Janiece Walker, Simone White, Tarius Hill, Ms. Amy Billizon M.Ed., Veronica Miles, Kylar Wiltz, Hoang Michael Nguyen, Kamilya Hunter, and James Armstrong



Khari Gilmore-ABRCMS Winner Biology (poster presentation)



Hoang Michael Nguyen-ABRCMS Winner Biology (poster presentation)

## The National Institutes of Health (NIH): Diversity in the Biomedical Workforce

The NIH is committed to achieving diversity in the biomedical research workforce. In partnership with the Diversity Program Consortium, the NIH has created engaging programs such as BUILD to encourage people from diverse backgrounds to pursue a career in biomedical research. Xavier's BUILD program, Project Pathways, is a part of a galvanized network of institutions funded by the NIH that share an unyielding commitment for diversity in the biomedical disciplines.

**"Diversity is not about how we differ. Diversity is about embracing one another's uniqueness."**

*Ola Joseph*

The students, faculty, and staff at Xavier deeply believe in the University's Mission, and that diversity makes us stronger as a team. The resources provided by the NIH are used to fortify our position as one of the leaders in preparing students from diverse backgrounds to successfully enter and complete graduate and professional programs in the biomedical sciences.



Dr. Valantine is the NIH Chief Officer for Scientific Workforce Diversity. As the Chief Officer for Scientific Workforce Diversity, she leads NIH's charge to diversify the biomedical research workforce by developing a strategy that promotes expansion of recruitment, retention, and inclusiveness in the biomedical research field.

During her visit to Xavier, she inspired students in the seminar "Career Path to Becoming Researcher and Beyond". She also gave a presentation for faculty and staff highlighting the NIH initiatives for increasing workforce diversity.

## Connecting the Pathways

Yale University Office for Graduate Student Development and Diversity (OGSDD) invited students from Xavier's BUILD Project Pathways to visit their campus. The OGSDD aims to enhance the academic experience at Yale University by diversifying the student body. The Office collaborates with departments and programs to recruit students and foster an environment of inclusion for diverse students in their programs. Dr. Michelle Nearon, Associate Dean for Graduate Student Development and Diversity welcomed Ms. Amy Billizon, Program Manager for the Student Training Core (STC) and Research Enrichment Core (REC), and eight students including five BUILD participants.

The students toured the campus, and Dr. Nearon provided them with an overview of OGSDD's mission and the role of her office in ensuring diversity at the University.

The students also received some insightful information on the biomedical graduate programs offered and the admissions process.



L-R: Feryn Harris, Michaela Smith, Jeremy Shrophire, Moamen Ismail, Kamilya Hunter, Veronica Miles, Ronise Evans, Ms. Amy Billizon M.Ed., and Kamrin Johnson

## BUILDing the Foundation for Tomorrow's Biomedical Leaders

Leveraging NIH BUILD funds, Xavier University has renovated a classroom and a number of labs such as the NIH BUILD Room in the Administration Building, Room 305. The Program also purchased needed equipment, software and supplies. The following labs were renovated and upgraded:

*NCF 272, 274, 276* were reconfigured to create one large and more functional Biochemistry and Biophysics research space. Research benches,

flammable storage cabinets, sinks, and an emergency outlet for use with the backup generators were installed.

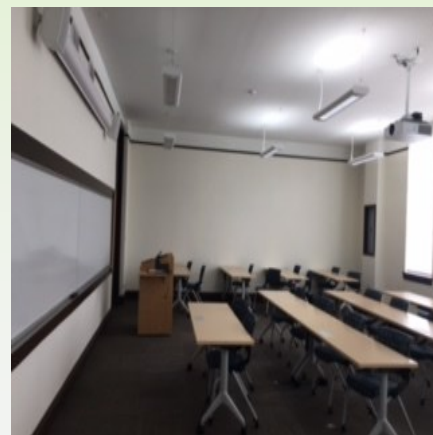
The existing classroom space in NCF 273 was converted into an Organic Chemistry research lab.

Research benches, storage cabinets, four fume hoods, new plumbing, vacuum and gas lines, flammable storage cabinets, sinks, electrical power outlets, and work desk space/book shelves for students and research staff were installed.

For NCF 316 (the Biochemistry teaching lab), the following equipment were purchased: High Speed Centrifuge, Tabletop Centrifuge, Micro-plate Reader, and a 3-D Printer. In addition, minor cosmetic renovations were needed to properly store equipment within the spaces allocated.

NCF 319, the Analytical Chemistry research lab, was reconfigured to increase functionality and research space by removing unused cabinets, non-functional

sinks, and excess furniture and install new work desks, research benches, and proper wiring.



*NIH BUILD Room in the Administration Building Room 305*



*NCF 273—NCF Organic Chemistry Research Lab Fume Hoods*



*NCF 273—NCF Organic Chemistry Research Lab work desk space/book shelves*



*NCF 316—NCF Biochemistry Teaching Lab*

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Find this newsletter online at  
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