



BIOTECH ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

October 31, 2019

WELCOME!!
TRACI WALKER, NEW
JUNIOR/SENIOR BIOTECH
COORDINATOR



It is with pleasure the Biotech Academy is proud to announce the addition of **Ms. Traci Walker** to the Biotech Magnet administrative staff. Ms. Walker comes to us from Louisiana Tech, but has also taught at Evangel Middle and High School. She loves the fact that Biotech students are so interested in science, especially as a career. She really wants her students to understand hard work and grit are more important than intelligence. **Ms. Walker** got her BS from LSUS, a Master of Arts in Teaching, and EdD in Educational Leadership from Louisiana Tech. In her free time, she likes to read, watch sports, play Fantasy football, dance and exercise. **Ms. Walker's** philosophy of life is "Love big and work hard." We feel so lucky to have **Ms. Walker** as the new junior/senior Biotech Magnet Academy Coordinator.

BIOTECH STUDENT OF THE QUARTER,
TA'NAYSIA CHAMBERS



Please offer a big high five to **Ta'Naysia Chambers**, she has been chosen the Biotech Student of the Quarter. **Ta'Naysia** is a sophomore in the Biotech Academy and a member of Beta Club, Student Council and FCA. She feels a strong responsibility to her community and demonstrated this last month by working at the Revel in the Sand Art Exhibit. She really enjoyed helping the children make their colorful creations. **Ta'Naysia** likes her math classes best because she enjoys the process and feels rewarded when she gets the right answer. Obviously, her favorite teacher at Southwood is **Ms. Cathlean Snyder**. She says **Ms. Snyder** was so helpful her freshman year. This year she helped with suggestions on transitioning to her sophomore year. She has two career goals in life. She wants to be a neuropsychologist, because she finds human behavior fascinating. She would like to explore why there seem to be so many serial killers. She also loves doing hair, so she would like to do cosmetology as a secondary career. The Biotechnology faculty is so proud of you.

MEET THE NEW BIOTECH FRESHMEN TEACHER...MS. ELLIOTT



Southwood's Biotech Academy would like to welcome back **Ms. Katie Elliott**. She taught at Southwood previously, but has also worked as a teacher at Simsboro High School, Alexandria Senior High, Jena High School, and La Salle Junior High. This is her 8th year of teaching. She is teaching World Geography to Biotech freshmen but has taught European history and middle school and freshmen English. **Ms. Elliott** loves her fantastic D-Wing coworkers and outstanding students. She is excited her Biotech students are able to move quickly through the material, so she has time for enrichment with them. This allows them to go deeper into geography than she can do in her regular classes.

Ms. Elliott grew up on a farm in Jena, Louisiana and attended Louisiana Tech and NSU, graduating with a BA in history. When she is not teaching, she enjoys traveling, reading, and baking bread. She wants her students to know they are blessed to be American and they need to take advantage of all the opportunities available to them. She lives by the motto, "Love God, your family and your neighbor and work hard." The Biotech Magnet Academy is so happy to welcome back, **Ms. Katie Elliott**.

BIOSTART INTERN MENTOR MATCH RECEPTION



The BioStart Mentor Match Reception was held on Monday, July 1st at LSUHSC. The BioStart Interns learned who their research mentors would be for the fall semester. The seven interns are **DaNeis Brown, Zion Hines, Dakota Ivy, Arizona Minister, Shekeira Rice, Chaniya Simpson and Miranda Thomas**. In May the students participated in a rotational interview process where mentors and students got about 5 minutes to ask and answer questions about the BioStart Internship. Based on the results of these interviews BioStart students and LSUHSC research mentors rank ordered their choice for mentors/students. At the reception the BioStart mentors were announced and the students received their lab coats. The Biotech Magnet Academy program is so proud of our 2019 - 2020 BioStart Interns.



BIOTECH FRESHMEN GET A GLIMPSE OF SHS



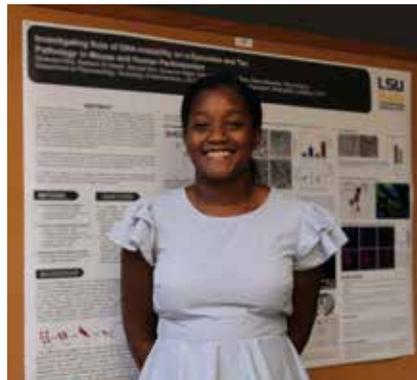
Yee haw! It's a round-up for cowboys! On Tuesday, August 6 the Southwood Biotechnology Academy class of 2023 was introduced to the ranch. Mr. Roberts and Ms. Cathlean Snyder along with a number of freshmen teachers and Biotech Navigator, Cathy Williamson greeted new freshmen. The students received their schedules and a packet of information about JCampus, CLEP, Dual Enrollment, the ACT, Google Classroom Student Access, the tardy policy, and SHS Dress Code.

Students and parents were treated to wonderful brisket dinner with all the fixins' prepared by Mr. Roberts. An overview of the expectations for the school year were shared with the students and their parents along with tips for making the students' high school careers the best ever. Congratulations, Southwood Biotech freshmen and good luck on a successful school year.

**BEING A SHS COWBOY
.....PRICELESS!!!**



SHEKEIRA RICE PRESENTS BIOSTART RESEARCH



On Friday, October 18 at LSUHSC, Shekeira Rice presented her BioStart research to the South Central Chapter of the Society of Toxicology's Annual Meeting. Shekeira was only one of two high school students invited to present their research. She is investigating the role DNA instability has on alpha-synuclein and tau pathology in mouse and human parkinsonism. She said she was extremely nervous during her presentation, but it came out better than she thought it would. One of things that encouraged her during her presentation was how nice the judges were.

During the conference, Shekeira got to meet some really cool scientists and she enjoyed learning about their interesting research. A take-away she got from this meeting was her presentation needed to be casual but professional. She said there is a very fine line between the two. This opportunity gave her excellent practice for the research presentations she will have to do in the future. Congratulations to Shekeira for a job well done.



**SAY A BIG HOWDY TO THE
NEW JUNIOR/SENIOR
BIOTECH TEACHER.....
Ms. JEFFERSON**

Joining the Biotech Magnet Academy upper classmen staff, we have **Ms. Linda Jefferson**. Ms. Jefferson has taught 18 years and comes to us from Caddo Middle Career and Technology School. She has also taught at Woodlawn High School, Southern University-Shreveport, and Santa Fe Community College. This year she is teaching physics, Advanced Math I, and Advanced Math II, but has also taught environmental science. She says her most interesting job was working as an intern in the Fermi National Accelerator Lab where research is done on acceleration physics. **Ms. Jefferson** really likes the academic opportunities offered to students in math and science at Southwood. She is impressed that the students are so knowledgeable and focused on careers in health care and scientific research.

Ms. Jefferson is a native of Shreveport and got her undergraduate physics degree from Southern A & M University. She got her master degree in physics and science education at the University of Florida. In her spare time, she loves to ride her bicycle, work in her garden and sing in the church choir. She would like all her students to know it is important to find your passion and use it to make life better for others. She believes if you do this you will receive the endless reward of satisfaction through accomplishment and service. Southwood feels so blessed to have **Ms. Jefferson** as a part of our Biotech Academy faculty.



**SCHOLARSHIPS FOR THE
CLASS OF 2018 - 2019**



For the Biotech Academy Magnet class of 2018 - 2019, 28 seniors out of 36 students reporting* or 78% students are attending 4-year colleges. Of these 28 Biotech seniors all but 2 are attending Louisiana colleges. Three students or 8% are going to 2-year community colleges or trade schools and 2 students or 6% are going to the armed services. Two students or 6% are choosing to take a gap year and work.

In terms of the Thompson Opportunity Program Scholarship (TOPS) 10 qualified for TOPS Performance scholarships and 8 qualified for the TOPS Opportunity scholarships.

The total scholarship amount for 32 post-secondary school bound students is \$516,614. Of this money 66% is from TOPS, 16% is from merit scholarships, and 18% is from Pell Grants. Congratulations and wishes of outstanding success go to the Biotech Academy Class of 2018 - 2019. *25% of the Class of 2019 - 2020 did not provide data for this report.



BIOTECH SENIORS CAPTURE SENIOR CLASS OFFICES

The Biotech Magnet Academy is so proud to announce 4 out of the 5 senior class officers for the class of 2020 are members of the Biotech Academy. **Janai' Davis** was elected president, **Adrian Turner** was chosen vice-president, **Ya'Lanna Law** is class secretary and **Jamia Thomas** will act as chaplain. **Janai'** is so excited to be the fearless leader and organizer of the Class of 2020. She wants to plan fun class activities like a kickball game with food and music and a dance that includes the whole student body, not just the seniors. **Adrian** is there to be her right-hand man and wants to be sure that the senior class provides activities that will produce wonderful memories. **Ya'Lanna** is responsible for keeping a record of all the meetings. Most of her plans focus on the end-of-the-year. She would really like to have the seniors participate in a senior walk the seniors' last day of school. **Jamia**, as chaplain, is responsible for the spiritual direction of the class especially at all meetings and during graduation. When asked about the outcome of the senior elections, **Jamia** said, "Jesus had it all set in place." A huge round of applause goes to the Southwood Senior Class Officers for 2020.



Pictured from left to right Ya'Lanna Law, Adrian Turner, Janai' Davis and Jamia Thomas.

BIOSTART INTERNS BEGIN THEIR INTERNSHIP



BioStart Interns on their First Day

Pictured from left to right Shekeira Rice, Arizona Minister, Zion Hines, Chaniya Simpson, DaNeis Brown, Dakota Ivy, and Miranda Thomas.



BIOTECH STUDENTS WITH THE HIGHEST GPA FOR FIRST NINE WEEKS

Seniors

Makayla Fuller

Dakota Ivy

Judyann Lay

Arizona Minister

Junior

Nikayla Henderson

Sophomores

Amaya Anderson

Ja'Miyah Dotson

Freshman

Jayden Jones

NIKAYLA HENDERSON SHARES HER SUMMER JOB

Nikayla Henderson was chosen last spring to participate in the Jumpstart Summer Enrichment program provided by LSU Health Sciences Center Office of Multicultural Affairs. It is an eight-week program where students spend 40 hours a week working in a research laboratory setting. This summer the program ran from June 3 to July 26. **Nikayla** applied for this because she wanted experiences in the medical field. She was paired with Dr. Solitro working in orthopedics specifically the biometrics lab. She did research with a partner on osteoporosis and vertebral fractures. Each week the Jumpstart students participated in supplemental enrichment activities. **Nikayla** liked the cadaver lab best. Here she got to see a body dissected and look at damaged lungs and a brain impacted by a stroke.

One of the best parts about this summer program was **Nikayla** got paid to learn. She said there were many exciting experiences. One thing she learned is research does not happen overnight but takes a long time. **Nikayla** made a research poster outlining the discoveries she made about osteoporosis and vertebral fractures and presented it to other students and medical school faculty. **Nikayla** is definitely interested in reapplying for the Jumpstart Program next year. She did an awesome job of using her summer to expand her educational horizons!



WHY IS THERE A BIOTECH FEE AND WHAT DOES IT DO FOR YOU????

So, what's the deal with the Biotech fees? This money supports not only the basic services provide by the Biotech Magnet Academy like supplying newsletters, providing information for students, furnishing supplies for recruiting, receptions, and Recognition Night, and communicating with parents. It provides study skills information for freshmen, the opportunity for sophomores to take the ACT, information about building a digital college portfolio for juniors, and honor cords and trophies for graduating seniors. It also contributes a \$100 cash award for the most outstanding senior Biotech student a \$750 Biotechnology Academy Scholarship for outstanding academic performance by a Biotech senior. So, if you have paid your Biotech fee, thank you very much for supporting your academic pursuits! If not, please get it in Friday, November 22. Freshmen and sophomores pay **Ms. Cathlean Snyder** and juniors and seniors pay **Ms. Traci Walker** in Room A237. **Let's get your fee paid so you will be a Biotech student in good standing.**

DATES TO REMEMBER... MARK YOUR CALENDAR

November 8 deadline to mail AHEC of a Summer Application

November 8 last day to register for the December 14th ACT

November 22 Biotech Fee due

December 10 BioStart Research Poster Session at 9:30 in the BRI Atrium

December 16 - 19 Fall Semester Exams