

iL.E.A.D. Success Tutoring & Mentoring, Ltd

Press Release
14 November 2016

2016 Science Fair Competition & College Tour Raleigh, NC

Hyattsville, MD – iL.E.A.D. Success Tutoring & Mentoring, Ltd. has done it once again. On November 10th, 2016 five middle school students and one high school student of the iL.E.A.D. Success program competed in the 2016 National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers (NOBCCChE) Science Fair Competition held in Raleigh, NC. The students each presented research projects centered on the topic of safe water, as prompted by the crisis in Flint, Michigan. We are pleased to announce that Nedim Yusuf (*project title: Freshwater vs. Greywater: Will the Plants Survive?*) earned 3rd place in the junior division, and Ellianna Polesky (*project title: Simple Water Filtration Designs*) earned 2nd place also in the junior division. Our senior division winner was Victoria Land (*project title: Testing for Lead in School Water Fountains*) of which she earned 3rd place as the lone freshman among high school seniors. This year Andrew Wilson (*project title: Potable Water: Analysis Using a Home Testing Kit*) was voted as the junior division People’s Choice award for his distinguished enthusiasm. Congratulations students!



*Front Row, from Left to Right: Ellianna Polesky, Nedim Yusuf, Victoria Land
Back Row, from Left to Right: Astrid Wilson, Yenair Yusuf, Andrew Wilson*

In addition to participating in the science competition, the students were engaged in several other Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematic (STEM) activities. The NOBCCChE conference also provided the students the occasion to participate in a college student panel discussion. The students asked questions and heard testimonies of college students who were science majors.

Later the students connected with hands-on STEM demonstrations at the STEM Festival. They used of a Tesla coil, tracked a virus, tested materials for radioactive decay, made slime, and so much more. Apart from the conference, the students visited the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences, toured the North Carolina State Solar house, and had a personal tour of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC) Chemistry Department and Maker Space facilities, hosted by Dr. Sharonda Johnson Le Blanc.

While at UNC, the students toured several laboratories and fabrication spaces, used a high powered scanning electron microscope, and partook in chemistry demonstrations. Throughout the entire trip the students were thrilled to learn the science behind the world around them, and to relate to individuals whose pursuit of knowledge makes everyday life better for all. We would like to thank all of our donors, our parents, and to the Hyattsville Branch Library of Prince George's County for making our program possible. We proudly look forward to another year for the students to *learn, explore, achieve, and demonstrate* success in STEM and beyond.

To find out how you can give, support, or participate, please visit www.ileadsuccess.org, or e-mail us at ileadsuccess@gmail.com