



## MARKETING & PUBLIC RELATIONS

### For Immediate Release

September 23, 2009

Media Contact: Tanya Wiley

Phone: 919-546-8269/336-345-2628:Mobile

twiley@shawu.edu

## SHAW STUDENTS “TOP WINNERS” IN NATIONAL STUDENT RESEARCH COMPETITION

(Raleigh, NC) –The Institute for Health, Social, and Community Research (IHSCR) at Shaw University is proud to announce that two Shaw University students were selected as first place winners in a national competition of student researchers at the Minority Access Inc., Tenth National Role Models Conference, which was held from September 11-14, 2009 in Washington, DC. The goal of Minority Access, Inc., is to increase the participation of minorities in biomedical research.

Because of the outstanding research that Shaw students have been involved in through internships at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, Johns Hopkins University, and in Jamaica, twelve students were strongly encouraged to enter the competition that featured undergraduate and graduate students from universities across the nation. These students have either participated in or conducted research using unique methodologies in the areas of social sciences, biomedical sciences, environmental sciences or diversity.

Ms. Andrea D. Mickle, President of Minority Access, Inc., said that this was “a diverse group of young researchers from diverse colleges and universities who presented their research findings in a competitive forum on a myriad of health related issues.” She added, “Minority Access encourages research by scholars because we know that more medical research will inevitably lead to more cures and a narrowing of the health disparities gap between minorities and the general population; a gap that is currently wide.” Shaw University was well represented at this forum and the students represented Shaw well at this major event.

Natieka Green, a sophomore with a major in Kinesiotherapy and minors in Political Science and International Relations, **won first place in the oral presentation category and received \$1,000** for her excellent research presentation developed from her research study entitled, “Racial Disparities in Alcohol Use: Findings from the Exploring Health Disparities in Integrated Communities (EHDIC) Study.” Ms. Green’s summer internship was organized through the IHSCR’s partnership with the Hopkins Center for Health Disparities Solutions, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. She was selected to participate in a paid 10-week summer internship at Johns Hopkins University and her presentation was part of the final requirement for successful completion of the internship.

-More-

Continued 2...

Dr. Roland Thorpe, professor at Johns Hopkins University and mentor for Natieka Green, provided this assessment of the skills she displayed. "Ms. Green's ability to quickly grasp novel concepts is a great asset of hers and a key contributor to her successful internship. Her work will enhance health disparities research by contributing to our understanding of the race disparities in alcohol use in a low income integrated community," he said.

Kalada Kienka, a sophomore, with a major in Computer Science and a minor in Mathematics **won the first place prize of \$250 in the research poster category**. His poster presentation was entitled, "Identifying Proteins in Prostate Cancer Cells Using Mass Spectrometry Data." His poster was the final requirement for the Shaw-UNC-CH Undergraduate Program in Prostate Cancer Research and Training (SUUPPRT) research summer internship program. Mr. Kienda participated in a paid 10-week intensive residential research internship with a research mentor at UNC-CH. At the conclusion of his internship, he indicated his internship allowed him the opportunity to improve his technical skills in his field of study, as well as increase his general knowledge. The experience also gave him the opportunity to explore a wider range of career possibilities, which he had not considered prior to the experience. "I strongly believe this experience will help me in both my studies and life as a whole," stated Mr. Kienka.

The other Shaw students who participated in this competition were **Letitia Beckett, Richard Flateau, Desma Green, Dominique Johnson, Aliya Massey, Pamela Robinson, Chaniqua Scott, Courtney Scott, and Sivad Shaw**. These students were all part of the IHSCR's Shaw in Jamaica "Mon" Project Summer 2009 internship in Kingston, Jamaica. Ten Shaw students spent 10 weeks at the University of the West Indies, conducting research on prostate cancer. This project was supported by Award Number T37MD003399 from the NIH National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities.

**Akeem Banks** participated in the 10 week paid SUUPPRT program at UNC-CH.

"The IHSCR places a high priority on providing these types of research enrichment activities for promising Shaw students. We want to immerse talented students in research activities so that we interest them in research careers. We need to increase the number of minority researchers to help us eliminate health disparities that plague minority communities. The IHSCR provides the perfect setting to mentor students and support them as they learn about and prepare for challenging research careers," noted Dr. Daniel L. Howard, Director of the IHSCR.

###

*Shaw University was founded in 1865 and is the oldest historically black university in the south. Shaw University is a private, co-educational, liberal arts University that awards degrees at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. The primary mission of Shaw University is teaching with the commitment to maintain excellence in research and academic programs that foster intellectual enhancement and technological skills.*