

Middle and High School Students Shine

PAGE 96

Middle and high school students participating in after-school and summer research experiences in the Earth and space sciences are invited to participate in AGU's Bright Students Training as Research Scientists (Bright STaRS) program. The Bright STaRS program provides a dedicated forum for these students to present their research results to the scientific community at AGU's Fall Meeting, where they can also learn about exciting research, education, and career opportunities in the Earth and space sciences.

Last year's program included 33 abstracts from middle and high school students involved with the Stanford University School of Earth Sciences; Raising Interest in Science and Engineering summer internship program sponsored by the Office of Science Outreach at Stanford; Lawrence Hall of Science at the University of California,

Berkeley; the University of California, Santa Cruz; California Academy of Science; San Francisco State University; the University of Arizona; and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary. Their work spanned a variety of topics ranging from structural geology and paleontology to environmental geology and polar science. Nearly 100 Bright STaRS students presented their research posters on Thursday morning (8 December) of the Fall Meeting and had a chance to interact with scientists, AGU staff, and other meeting attendees.

During an organized lunch after their poster session, students had an opportunity to mingle with 17 AGU Fellows and nearly 30 students from Minorities Striving and Pursuing Higher Degrees of Success in Earth System Science (MS PHD'S) as well as listen to welcoming remarks by AGU president Mike McPhaden and graduate student

Solomon Seyum, who discussed his path from community college to graduate school. Following lunch, some of the students chose to participate in a new shadowing program, where they visited scientific sessions and posters with Fellows and MS PHD'S students. Others opted to visit the academic showcase exhibitors to learn more about educational opportunities in the Earth and space sciences by visiting booths on academic programs at different universities and attending poster sessions.

This year's Bright STaRS program will build on last year's successes, and we are working toward including even more deserving middle and high school students. For more information on Bright STaRS, see http://www.agu.org/education/diversity_programs/bstars.shtml.

—PRANOTI ASHER, Manager, Education and Public Outreach, AGU; E-mail: pasher@agu.org; and JENNIFER SALTZMAN, School of Earth Sciences, Stanford University, Stanford, Calif.