

**For Immediate Release**

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**HSSU Student Places Second at the 2014 Undergraduate Research & Graduate School (URGS) Retreat**

ST. LOUIS, MO (October 10, 2014) – Harris-Stowe State University student Davinelle Daniels received second place honors in her category in the undergraduate research poster presentation at the 2014 Undergraduate Research & Graduate School (URGS) Retreat at the University of Tennessee, September 26-27, 2014. Daniels' presentation was entitled "Adapting the Forced Swim Test to Assess Stress Responses in *Drosophila melanogaster*."

Daniels, a senior majoring in biology, completed her summer internship research at Saint Louis University School of Medicine under advisement of Dr. Wendi Neckameyer in the Department of Pharmacological & Physiological Science. The study was made possible and supported by a grant from the National Institutes of Mental Health (Hormonal Factors and Recruitment of Neurons into the Stress Response Circuitry).

During her time at HSSU, Daniels has served as a biology teaching assistant and biology tutor supported by the National Science Foundation (NSF) HBCU-UP grant awarded to HSSU.

"Davinelle Daniels is an outstanding student researcher. There are numerous STEM opportunities available to Davinelle after she graduates from Harris-Stowe State University. We are excited for Davinelle and proud of her accomplishments," said Dr. Tommie Turner, director of the Institute for Science & Mathematics.

The annual URGS Conference was hosted by the University of Tennessee in partnership with the Tennessee Solar Conversion and Storage using Outreach, Research and Education (TN-SCORE) and the NSF. The conference aimed to educate participants about undergraduate research opportunities and they were exposed to science and engineering education graduate programs. Additionally, participants learned about the graduate school process and the various ways in which graduate education can be funded.

"I am excited to received second place honors for my undergraduate research. The hard work I put in during my summer internship greatly paid off and I gained a wealth of knowledge and experience," stated Daniels. "Attending the retreat was also life changing. I now have a greater understanding of the importance of graduate school and how to successfully proceed with my graduate education."

For more information about the 2014 TN-SCORE URGS Retreat visit [www.tnepscor.org](http://www.tnepscor.org).

Harris-Stowe State University, located in midtown St. Louis, is a fully accredited four-year institution that offers 14 degree programs in the areas of teacher education, business and arts & sciences. In 2013, HSSU ranked No. 1 in the state in degree production of African-Americans in mathematics (Missouri Department of Higher Education). The university, which has been in existence for more than 150 years, offers the most affordable bachelor's degree in the state of Missouri.

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