**2013 Inaugural Initiative Highlights**

**Who**

15 rising sophomores from two Houston partner schools
- Cesar E. Chávez High School and George I. Sánchez Charter School

**What**

An intensive three year preparatory program designed to immerse low & moderate income women of color in cutting-edge biomedical research, address identified weaknesses in their educational background, and foster long-reaching mentoring relationships

**When**

June 23-28, 2013 (Residential in Sid Richardson College)
Monthly throughout the academic year

**Where**

Rice University

**Primary Goals**

- **Inspire** a group of ambitious women of color from low and moderate income communities to pursue careers in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) fields
- **Foster** lasting mentoring relationships and role modeling for underrepresented women through engagement with Rice undergraduates, graduate students, faculty and staff
- **Grow** a vibrant pipeline of STEM trained female graduate committed to the future of our Houston community

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**2013 Inaugural Program Highlights**

**Communications and Critical Thinking Workshops**

Girls begin each morning with critical writing exercises, public speaking practice, and discussion of the previous days’ work. Their work is reviewed nightly and they are coached each morning by Rice University graduate students from the Department of English.

**Laboratory Demonstrations**

For many of the participating students, this program is their first exposure to the myriad of disciplines that may be explored in STEM. For their first summer, their mornings conclude with hands-on workshops in a variety of topics: biochemistry, bioengineering, ecology, computer science, and physics.
Field Trips
Students gain a further understanding of the richness of the Houston STEM environment through trips to:
- University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
- NASA-Johnson Space Center
- Baylor College of Medicine Brain Lab
- Sea Center Texas
- Buffalo Bayou Partnership
- Houston Museum of Natural Science

Hands-on Learning
Students dive into learning with exercises demonstrating force, velocity, pond water ecosystems and engineering.

Small Group Mentoring
Each evening, the students gather in their small groups, led by women Rice graduate students, to process the events of the day, discuss issues of concern to them, and focus on topics related to academic success, interpersonal strength, and healthy relationships.

End of Week Presentations
The week culminates with the opportunity for students to share their experiences, insights and analysis with their family members in a celebratory End of Week Dinner. This moment is a peak experience for the girls as their families gain additional understanding of the importance of the program and exhibit greater ownership in the program for having participated in the celebration.

2013-2014 Academic Year Highlights

Monthly Meetings
The third Tuesday of each month, the students gather on the Rice University campus to attend seminars on STEM topics, connect with their small groups on academic and personal issues, and meet with individual faculty members to pursue exploration in the scientific discipline of their choice.

National Meetings
In October, the students will travel to San Antonio to attend the Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS), an incredible opportunity to view the scientific work of students from across the nation, envision their own potential when presented with the work of peers, and visit with representatives from colleges & universities from across the nation.

Volunteer Opportunities
Students will have the opportunity to be of service to the community through volunteer work with Houston community agencies of their choice.

Mentoring Experience
Students will learn the skills of mentoring by providing leadership and advice to the next cohort of students that will be selected for the program. Students will participate in presentations at information sessions, individual discussions, and matching mentoring relationships with new students.