

# CATALYST FOR OUR FUTURE

The Foundation for Science and Mathematics Education presents the 2009-2010 report to our community. We support The New Orleans Charter Science and Mathematics High School—Sci High—and (through June 30, 2010) the New Orleans Charter Science and Math Academy—Sci Academy. Both are open-access charter high schools dedicated to excellence for all students.

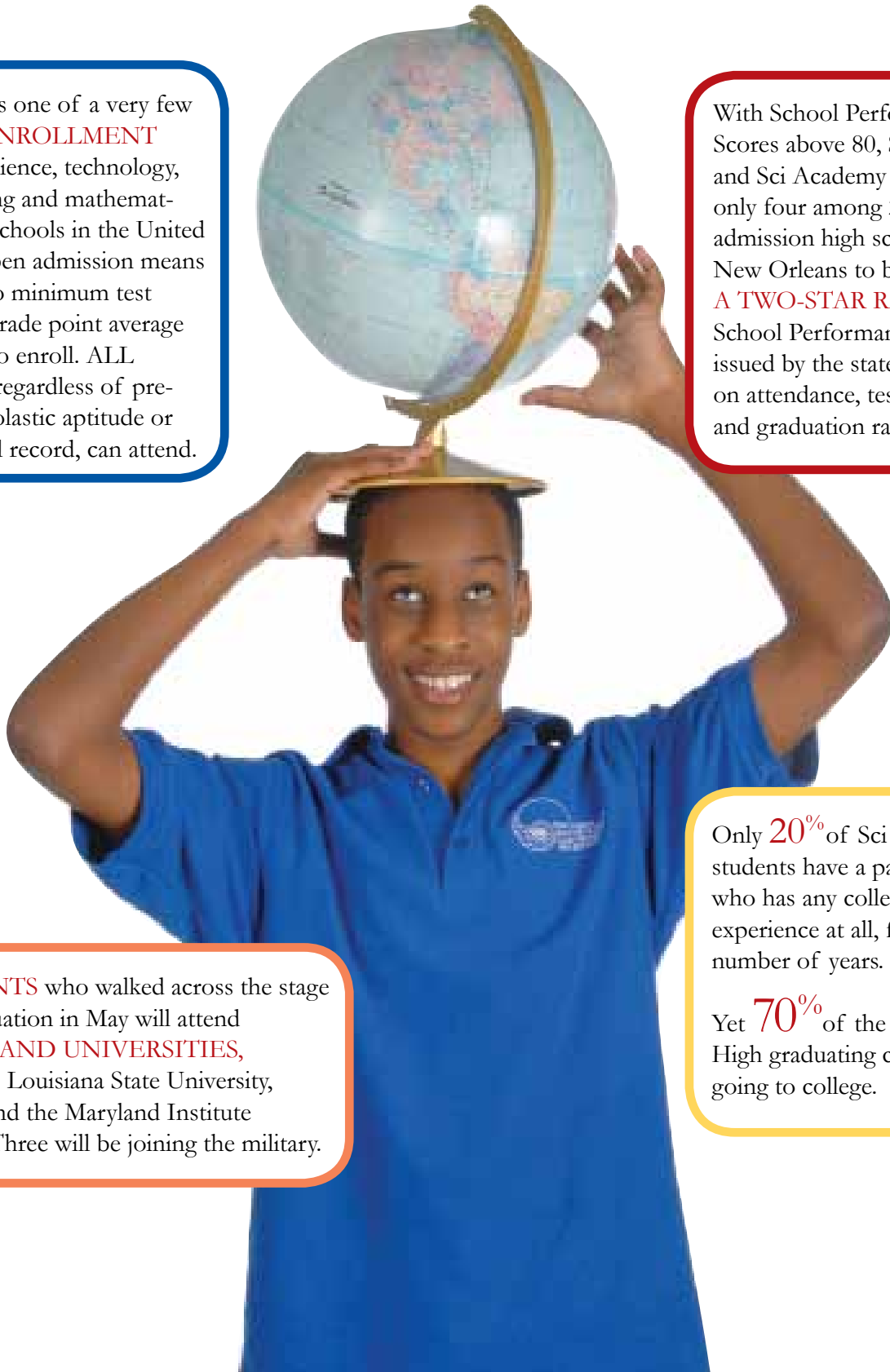
Sci High is one of a very few **OPEN-ENROLLMENT STEM** (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) high schools in the United States. Open admission means there is no minimum test score or grade point average required to enroll. **ALL** students, regardless of previous scholastic aptitude or behavioral record, can attend.

With School Performance Scores above 80, Sci High and Sci Academy are two of only four among 20 open admission high schools in New Orleans to be awarded **A TWO-STAR RATING**. School Performance Scores, issued by the state, are based on attendance, test scores and graduation rates.

The **81 STUDENTS** who walked across the stage at Sci High graduation in May will attend **62 COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES**, including Loyola, Louisiana State University, Dillard, Xavier and the Maryland Institute College of Art. Three will be joining the military.

Only **20%** of Sci High students have a parent who has any college experience at all, for any number of years.

Yet **70%** of the Sci High graduating class is going to college.





**“The best thing we can do for our young people – and for our future economy – is enhance their aspirations. Our schools show their students possible career paths and then let them know that those future careers are within their reach, given hard work, persistence, hands-on experience and support from teachers and mentors.”**

—Foundation Board Member Carla Davis-Madgett,  
Manufacturing Excellence Manager,  
Shell/Motiva, Norco Refinery

## TWO SCHOOLS WIN NATIONAL RECOGNITION, FUNDING

### SCI HIGH PARTNERS IN \$2M+ COMPETITIVE GRANTS

Sci High was one of three partner high schools that worked together to obtain a competitive grant of more than \$2 million from the U.S. Department of Education.

The grant, announced in September, was awarded under the Gulf Coast Recovery Program, established to improve education in areas affected by Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Ike and Gustav.

The amount, \$2,352,866, will be shared among Lusher Charter School, Edna Karr High School and Sci High. The grant is designed to improve teaching, help students with academic needs, link students to college opportunities and provide a way to assess teachers’ performances and help them improve.

The money will also allow Sci High to track seniors for five years after graduation. “We want to know that what we’re doing here works,” said School Director Alnita Porea.

Porea noted that Sci High is launching a “closing-the-gap period”—a time set aside daily when a teacher will focus on remediation or enrichment, whichever is appropriate for each student.

### SCI ACADEMY RECEIVES \$1 MILLION ANGEL NETWORK AWARD FROM OPRAH

During a segment on exceptional charter schools broadcast September 20 on the Oprah Show, Sci Academy School Director Ben Marcovitz accepted a check for \$1 million from Oprah’s Angel Network.

The school is one of six in the nation to receive the \$1 million donation, which was announced during Winfrey’s show on education reform. The donations recognize incredible efforts by schools, against seemingly insurmountable odds, to achieve academic excellence.

“Sci Academy is enormously grateful for the support from Oprah’s Angel Network. This substantial funding will support our sustainability and growth to serve more New Orleans scholars,” Marcovitz said. “We are excited and honored to be nationally recognized for the outstanding academic success of our scholars.”

“This school is a shining example of how an exceptional program can dramatically improve student achievement,” RSD Superintendent Paul Vallas said. “I couldn’t be more proud of what Sci Academy has accomplished.”



**11** Total number of percentage points that scores posted by Sci High students in math and science increased from 2009 to 2010 on the Graduate Exit Exam.

**7** The number of percentage points Sci High students ranked above the average of the 25 high schools in the city in passing the math portion of the 2010 Graduate Exit Exam.

**1%** Dropout rate for Sci High, compared to a 6% statewide average.

# Envisioning Student Success

School Director shares hopes and plans for Sci High

**A**lnita Porea grew up in New Orleans, attended Allen School (now the site of Sci High), graduated from Southern and Xavier universities, returned to her old school building to teach geometry in 2006, and became school director in 2009. Here she shares her vision for the school.

## How is Sci High different from other public charter high schools in New Orleans?

What makes us so special is that we are open enrollment. We don't pick and choose our students. We do test once they are accepted so that we can know what growth targets to set for them. We do a pretty good job of identifying student needs and then working with them to fill those gaps.

## Please talk about the role science, technology, engineering and math play in the school.

They play a very big role. We're a science and math high school so our electives are science and math courses. Our students take more science and math classes than students at other schools. They can also take courses through an online school which helps to bring in a technology component to provide extra material. Some of our students graduate with A+, IC3 or Adobe certifications in technology, so they are immediately employable.

## What is your biggest desire for Sci High students?

That 100% of the students upon graduation are either going to a 2-year college or 4-year university or they are going to some type of trade school or the military.

## How do you get students to focus on college — and to envision themselves there? Many of them are the first generation of their families to attend.

College should be a reality starting freshman year in high school. We just hired a freshman/sophomore counselor to begin introducing colleges to students and getting students interested in college. We want our students to visit all the colleges in the city by the end of their sophomore year. Then they can begin to visit all of the colleges in the state.

We also have a partnership with the Cowen Institute at Tulane that's promoting AP classes. We offer prep classes to make sure that students are getting the foundation that they need to be ready to score threes, fours, and fives in their AP classes. We offer AP Chemistry, AP Biology, AP Calculus, AP Language, AP Literature, and AP US History. That's six classes—so if you have the ability to take six courses and earn a four on all six of those tests, that is your first college semester done. Next year, we are adding AP Environmental Science, AP World History, and AP Probability and Statistics. We want to develop a structure so that students can walk away from here and start their sophomore year in college.

## When you think about the future of Sci High, what do you see?

I see us as a school with a program that allows our seniors to do one of two things: they are either in college taking courses each semester or they are in a half-day internship. If we do everything right and push our students in ninth and tenth and eleventh grades, we can actually have them set up to be in school for two to three hours each day



and the rest of the day actually be in the workforce, putting into practice what we've taught them over the past three years. I see our students working within the medical and engineering community, shadowing people and really finding out what they want to do—to be a pediatrician or prefer to go into nursing, or maybe work behind the scenes as biomedical engineer.

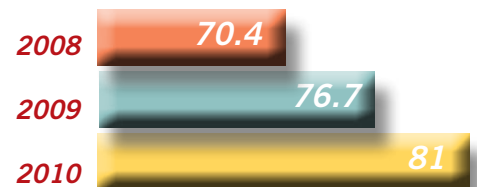
Read more of the interview at the Foundation Web site, [www.nolascienceandmath.org](http://www.nolascienceandmath.org)

*“I don't want anybody to walk away from this school still undecided about their future—there are too many options out there.”*

—Alnita Porea, School Director, Sci High

## SCHOOL PERFORMANCE SCORE INCREASE

BASED ON TEST SCORES, ATTENDANCE, AND RETENTION RATES



Based on its scores, Sci High is a two-star school. The state-awarded two-star ranking is the highest level achieved in 2010 by open-enrollment high schools in New Orleans.

**130** The number of Sci High students enrolled in Advanced Placement courses in 2009-2010, with the potential to earn college credit while in high school.

**6** The number of AP courses offered in 2009-2010. Sci High has been selected by the Cowen Institute at Tulane as one of four schools where faculty is especially trained to offer AP classes.

**1** The number of percentage points Sci High students rank above the average of all 25 high schools in the city in passing the English portion of the 2010 Graduate Exit Exam.

## Dear Friends of Science & Mathematics Education,

### Every day the daunting statistics wash over us:

- The World Economic Forum ranked the United States 48th of 133 developed and developing nations in quality of math and science instruction.
- Among the 30 developed countries, the United States ranked 25th in math and 21st in science.
- It is predicted that by 2020 only about 50 million Americans will be qualified to fill 123 million highly skilled, highly paid jobs.

**Nevertheless, every day we witness hope and promises fulfilled in our students** whose learning experiences are enriched, thanks to your support of the Foundation for Science and Mathematics Education. We witness curiosity quickened, benchmarks achieved, intellects stretched, learning gaps closed. We see hundreds of exemplary young people who will give lie to the negative statistics and become the bedrock upon which the economy of New Orleans and this region will flourish.

**In this annual report, you will read about the successes of our schools,** their quantified achievements and the recognition they have garnered.

**Our accomplishments are impressive, but the formula for our success is really quite simple.** “All” that it took to design and implement a high-quality educational model—a model that preserves accessibility to everyone—was leadership, expert teachers who are devoted to the growth and empowerment of their students, high expectations of and for those students, easy access to health and mental health services, and lots of effort, patience and second chances. Add the generosity of our donors and our community’s determination to improve public high school education, and we have led the way to college and career success for students who, in the past, were underserved at school and “written off” as potential contributors and leaders.

**Significant organizational developments have also occurred during the year.** On May 20, the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) approved a charter change leading to Sci Academy’s independence. That school now has its own board, led by experienced educator Susan Norwood, its own internal fundraising mechanism and its own vision.

“I’m very proud of the number of our graduates who have gone into science and math related fields, chief among them engineering. I hear from them weekly. The good news is if you provide engaging lessons, have well-educated and very dedicated teachers, and develop a culture of academic rigor, the students will perform.”

—Founding Principal Barbara MacPhee

**The Advocates, headed by Mary Zervigon, continue to serve** as the governing board of Sci High. The Foundation for Science and Mathematics Education continues to build resources to support Sci High and its vital role in preparing students to become the skilled workforce that will meet the technical and scientific demands of our new economy.

**As we dream of a new school facility for Sci High in the BioDistrict** and the potential of our students to experience hands-on the lessons they learn in the classroom with mentors and role models within their easy reach, our young people also need a license to dream. When open-access charter schools like Sci High and Sci Academy are supported by parents, community, and all friends of quality public education,

then those schools become the vehicle for students to realize their dreams. With your commitment to the goals of the Foundation for Science and Mathematics Education, we are confident that our alumni will keep our city on the road to sustainable “livability” and economic success.

**Again, thank you for your interest and support.**



Dr. Roy Weiner  
Board Chair  
Foundation for Science &  
Mathematics Education

Madalyn Schenk  
Immediate Past Board Chair  
Foundation for Science &  
Mathematics Education



**T**he Foundation for Science and Mathematics Education is a public advocate for an open-enrollment, rigorous, hands-on educational model, paired with the belief that any student can succeed when provided with a safe and supportive environment. Of funds raised, more than 80% goes directly to support school needs. We thank the following friends of Science and Mathematics Education for helping us reach our goals in 2009-2010.

**\$250,000 and above**

AT&T Foundation

**\$100,000-\$249,000**

Institute of Mental Hygiene

**\$50,000-\$99,999**

Joe W. & Dorothy Dorsett Brown Foundation

Keller Family Foundation

The Reily Foundation

**\$10,000-\$49,999**

Chevron

Edward Wisner Fund

Entergy Charitable Foundation

Goldring Family Foundation

Goodwill Industries

GPOA Foundation

McMoRan Exploration Co.

Patrick F. Taylor Foundation

RosaMary Foundation

Ruth U. Fertel Foundation

Selley Foundation

Mary Zervigon

**\$5,000-\$9,999**

Chris Airth

Ella West Freeman Foundation

Robert & Shirley Haspel Fund

Eugenie & Joseph Jones Family Foundation

Diana & J. Thomas Lewis

Caroline & Philip Loughlin III

Georges Lurcy Charitable and Educational Trust

Motiva Enterprises, LLC

Zemurray Katrina Foundation

**\$1,000-\$4,999**

Advocates for Science & Math

Anonymous

Ellen and Mac Ball, Jr.

George L. Bernstein

Marjorie Bissinger

Amy Brumfield

Dianne & Joseph Caverly

Kathleen Martin & Colby Dempsey

George & Milly Denegre Fund

Margaret & Joe Epstein Fund

Jennifer Fallon & Camilo Salas III

Tabitha & Michael Lewis Fund

Louise S. McGehee School

Gustaf Westfeldt McIlhenny Family Foundation

Northwestern Mutual Foundation

Roger Ogden

Sylvia & Jason Patterson

Pinckley Inc.

Lynn E. Pyke

Kathy & Lee Randall

Vada Reynolds &

Ryan Family Foundation

Madalyn & Robert Schenk

Sport Family Foundation

Carroll W. Suggs

Susan A. & Donald P. Babson Charitable Foundation

Usdin-Weil Foundation

Zehno Cross-Media Communications

**\$500-\$999**

Florence Andre

Anonymous

Brenda & Bob Brown

Michael & Paulette Bruno

Michael W. Courtney

Crossroads Institute for Arts, Learning & Community

D.C. Lamarr Contracting LLC

Carla Davis-Madgett

Brooke H. Duncan

Frances & Calvin Fayard, Jr.

Jane & Charlie Ferguson

Marcella & Gregory Frances

Michelle Hayes

Bruce J. Heim Foudantion

Catherine Lemann

MSI Major Services, Inc.

Jana & Gregory Probst

Janet & David Rice

Pierre Stouse

Marjorie & Roy Weiner

Andres Zervigon

**\$100-\$499**

Judy & Richard Allison

Dr. & Mrs. Arthur Axelrod

Olivia & Stuart Bamforth

Baptist Community Ministries Matching Gift Program

Beth Bloch-Rosenthal

Boh Bros. Construction Co. LLC

Harvey & Victoria Bricker

Brooks Restaurants, Inc.

Emily & Roderic Camp

Capitol One

Carrollton Technology Partners

Dr. Matthew Causey

Fayne & Russell P. Cecola

Edgar Chase III

Rhonda Coignet & Derek Toten

Joan Coulter

Celia Deininger

Michael Eckstein

Julie & Dennis Ellerbach

Lin Emery

Laurance Eustis III

Douglas Finegan

Julia Fishelson

Law Offices of Warren A. Forstall, Jr.

Ana & Juan Gershanik

Cathy Glaser

Joann Flom Greenberg

Oscar M. Gwin III

Charles & Nathaniel Hadley

Nancy & Stephen Hales

Cathy Harris

Julie & Seth Harris

Johnette Hassell & Mark Benard

Susan & William Hess

Harley Howcott

Edith Gee Jones

Shannon Jones

John Laborde, Jr.

Jane Johnson & David Marcello

Nancy Marsiglia

Pat & Lee Mason

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas G. Mason

Myra Menville

Metairie Park Country Day School

Cynthia Molyneaux

Sybil Haydel Morial

Murray Pitts

Sidney Pulitzer

Bridget Ramsey

Linda & Lee Reid

Meaghan M. Ryan &

Joseph L. Bonavita III

Shorty, Dooley & Hall, LLC

Julie & Cedric Walker

William W. Waring

James Wesner

Everett Williams

Dan Woodliff

John A. Youngberg

**up to \$99**

Jane & Mitchell Abide, Jr.

Morgan Carter & Michael Ripski

Collette Creppell &

Stephen Higginson

Susan & Lou Good, III

Susan & Marc Friedman

Feltus Kennedy

Knill Family Charitable Trust

Richard Latner

Darlene Madison

Suzy & Joel Mague

Ann Mahorner

Shirley Marvin

Mr. & Mrs. W. Geary Mason

Georgia McDonald & Andrew Mayer

Dina & Tim McEvoy

Mary Pitts

Elizabeth Reese

Mary Reily

Mr. & Mrs. Milton G. Scheuermann, Jr.

Catherine Simoneaux

Phyllis & Jay Shames

United Way of Greater New Orleans

Carol Wise

*Donors acknowledged in this list made contributions between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2010. We have made every effort to ensure completeness and accuracy.*

*Please contact Dori Orr at 504.324.7045 or [doriorr@nolascienceandmath.org](mailto:doriorr@nolascienceandmath.org) with any errors or omissions, so that the records and online donor roll can be corrected.*

*Thanks to Pinckley Inc., Prairie Productions and Zehno Cross-Media Communications for pro bono concept, content, design and production management for this annual report.*

**\$1,500**

The amount the Foundation seeks to raise to supplement state/local funding for each student in order to give them—and our economic future—a competitive edge.

# COMMUNITY PARTNERS

The Foundation for Science and Mathematics Education is grateful to the partners who have contributed so much to the success of our students in the 2009-2010 academic year.

**ADVANCE NOLA** is responsible for teacher training, tutoring, practice tests, Saturday study sessions and student transportation for Sci High.

**COWEN INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION INITIATIVES**, based at Tulane University, supports Sci High through teacher development, Advanced Placement programs, college testing and other college readiness efforts, as well as co-hosting Family Nights.

**INSTITUTE OF MENTAL HYGIENE** provides a social worker to Sci High.

**LSU ADOLESCENT HEALTH CLINIC** on Sci High's campus offers comprehensive physical and behavioral health services.

**NEW ORLEANS OUTREACH** coordinates volunteers, after-school and summer programming and year-long tutoring at both schools. Among offerings are spoken word, debate, basketball, yearbook, Chinese, Science Olympiad and YA/YA, involving students in art, design and entrepreneurship.

**SCHOOL LEADERSHIP CENTER** includes Sci High as a member of its East Bank Collaborative of Char-

# \$3,000,000+

The amount the Foundation has raised since 2006 from local and national individuals, corporations and foundations for program enhancements and additional services for our students.

ter Schools, allowing school heads to compare strategies, successes and challenges while offering mini-grants, public relations, advocacy, grant writing and legal services.

**TEACH FOR AMERICA (TFA)** alumni number seven at Sci Academy; one TFA corps member is also a teacher there. Two TFA corps members and four TFA alumni work at Sci High. The national teacher training program recruits talented college grads, offers intensive training and focuses on eliminating educational inequity.

- Sidney Fauria, PhD
- Frances Fayard
- Jane Ferguson
- Stephen W. Hales, MD
- Cathy Harris
- Chanel Jolly
- Edith Jones
- Shannon L. Jones
- Kathleen Kennedy, PharmD
- Margaret London-Roen
- Diana Pinckley
- Isaac Pollack
- Gregory J. Probst
- Christopher Reade
- Lee C. Reid
- Pamela Ryan
- Carroll W. Suggs
- Steven W. Usdin
- Everett Williams, PhD

## SCHOOL DIRECTORS

*Sci High*  
**Alnita W. Porea**

*Sci Academy*  
**Benjamin Marcovitz**

## BOARD MEMBERS 2009-2010: FOUNDATION FOR SCIENCE & MATHEMATICS EDUCATION

- Madalyn Schenk, *President*
- Pat Mason, *Vice President*
- Roy S. Weiner, MD, *Secretary*
- Lee W. Randall, *Treasurer*
- Mary Zervigon, *Advocates Representative*
- Florence Andre
- Ellen Ball
- Bob Brown
- Michael Bruno
- Matthew Causey, EdD
- Edgar L. Chase III
- Sarah Chaudhry
- Joan Coulter
- Carla Davis-Madgett
- Celia Deininger
- Brooke H. Duncan
- Margaret Epstein

## FOUNDATION STAFF

**DIRECTOR OF ADVANCEMENT**  
**Dori Orr** (*September 2010 -*)  
**Morgan Carter** (*October 2009-  
June 2010*)

**GRANT WRITER &  
COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER**  
**Erica Severan** (*September 2010 -*)  
**Jewel Bush** (*2009- June 2010*)

## BOARD MEMBERS 2009-2010: ADVOCATES FOR SCIENCE & MATHEMATICS EDUCATION INC.

- Mary Zervigon, *Chair*
- Diana Lewis, *Vice Chair*
- Sybil Morial, *Secretary*
- Holly Sharp, CPA, *Treasurer*
- John Brown
- Joseph Caverly
- Rhonda Coignet
- Collette Creppell
- Jennifer A. Fallon
- Michelle Hayes



*Watch for Bruce, the Sci High robot, and his cameo appearance in a television spot produced by Entergy.*

## Hands-on Learning

*Eight Sci High students spent six weeks this summer as interns in local organizations through the Summer Science Internship Program, funded jointly by New Orleans Outreach and the Foundation for Science and Mathematics Education. Each student presented research outcomes at an Internship Showcase on August 3 at Sci High.*



Interns and their sites include:

**ABC/26 News** - Courtney Jones  
**Greater New Orleans Inc.**

Kristin Brooks

**Louisiana Outdoor Outreach Program** – Terrance Davis

**Tulane Cancer Center**

Marissa Honeycutt

Jasmine McGary

Jasmine Smith

Jenez Griffith

Dwi'Shana Smith

Participation means mentorship, says Foundation Board President Dr. Roy Weiner, the associate dean for clinical research and training at Tulane University Health Sciences Center. "The internship exposes promising young men and women to the possibility of a career in science, but perhaps even more importantly, it provides the students with the lifelong benefits of a mentor-mentee experience."

New Orleans Outreach seeks hosts and sponsors for next summer's internships. For information, call the Foundation at (504) 324-7045.

**Marissa Honeycutt** spent her summer at Tulane Cancer Center, where she joined a team exploring the use of human multipotent stromal cells in stem cell-based therapies that target tumors, particularly in ovarian cancer.

**What did you do?** I worked in the lab on Immunohistochemistry. I did things like make samples, and take pictures of cells. From the pictures, I had to identify the type of cell.

**What was your favorite part of the internship?** I enjoyed getting to do experiments and working in the lab. It was fun.

**What do you want to in the future?** I want to go to school to study gene therapy.

**What is that?** Gene therapy is genetics, it is (similar to) what I studied over the summer. I would love to work in a lab someday.

## The Virtual Advantage

**Virtual Academy was launched at Sci High in summer 2010 to help students who needed to re-take classes due to poor grades and to give talented students enhanced opportunities.**

The courses ranged from English and French to world history and biology. Students were largely successful, with a passage rate of 94%.

"Virtual Academy doesn't serve as a substitute for traditional classroom teaching," says School Director Alnita Porea. "It helps students enhance their education and allows them to take courses not traditionally offered at Sci High."

At \$300/course, the approach is a resource-effective solution for adding advanced topics to the curriculum. For example, Porea plans to offer Mandarin Chinese and other

courses the students express interest in taking.

A Sci High staff member and tutor is present in every classroom, in addition to a virtual teacher whom students can call to discuss the material they are taking. The virtual teacher also monitors progress through bi-weekly phone calls, assigns lessons and grades the student's coursework.

Sherman Williams, an 11th grade student spoke about his experience, "At first it was funny taking a class and not having a regular teacher. I took English II over the summer and made a B. It made me want to take Biology in the fall because I could learn at my own pace."

## Engineering a Future

Sci High student Kenyal Rieux joined other high-achieving high school students from around the United States this summer in the Math Academy at the University of Washington's College of Engineering. The intensive residential session develops math and problem-solving skills while it exposes students to the range of careers available to engineers. She was one of four African-American students to be included—and the only one from outside Washington State. It is the second year Sci High has participated in the program. "We have developed a partnership," says School Director Alnita Porea, "and we encourage our students to apply."

## FAST FACTS ABOUT SCI HIGH

### MISSION

To prepare under-served New Orleans students for college and career success through a rigorous school culture that emphasizes academic success and science and mathematics education.

### LOCATION

Uptown: 5625 Loyola Avenue

### STUDENT POPULATION

353 students grades 9-12  
88% African/American  
72% eligible for free or reduced lunch  
6% special education students

### CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZER

Orleans Parish School Board

### AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

After-school activities, tutoring & summer internships are coordinated by New Orleans Outreach

### COLLEGE TRIPS

Boston, statewide tours of Louisiana, Mississippi



*The Nautilus, symbol of Sci High and the Foundation, represents meaningful growth and lasting connection. Ancient Greeks believed the chambered nautilus spiral to be a symbol of perfection.*

*To learn more about the Foundation and Sci High accomplishments, visit our redesigned Web site: [www.nolascienceandmath.org](http://www.nolascienceandmath.org)*

*To support the work of the Foundation for Science and Mathematics Education with a tax-deductible contribution, contact Director of Advancement Dori Orr at (504) 324-7045 [doriorr@nolascienceandmath.org](mailto:doriorr@nolascienceandmath.org)*

---

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

We seek unrestricted support—the kind that permits the greatest flexibility to fulfill priority needs. Some examples of ways in which such money might be invested:

- \$30,000 for a smart classroom
- \$ 5,000 for after-school programming for five students
- \$ 3,000 for three summer internships
- \$ 1,500 for a laptop computer cart for a classroom
- \$ 1,000 to take a teacher on a learning trip to a model charter school
- \$ 500 to buy lab supplies for students in an AP science class
- \$ 300 to underwrite enrollment in a virtual course for one student
- \$ 100 for an award recognizing student achievement

[www.nolascienceandmath.org](http://www.nolascienceandmath.org)

