Hello EXITO Community!

As we enter our third program year, we are very aware of the ways in which our community is expanding and the incredible opportunities our Scholars are getting to engage in meaningful research. This summer we welcomed our Cohort 3 Scholars with our Summer Orientation, placed our Cohort 2 Scholars in Research Learning Communities, and watched as our Cohort 1 Scholars did an incredible job presenting about their RLC research.

As many of you know, we send out this Community Newsletter as a way to tell the stories of EXITO mentors, staff, Scholars, Pilot Project leads and more. We also talk about important issues that we may face such as how to overcome imposter syndrome or how to talk about our scientific research with friends and family.

Last year, we had the chance to highlight many incredible stories of courageous EXITO folks like Dora Raymaker’s drive to understand autism in the workplace and Scholar Sulema Rodriguez’s passion about inclusivity in science.

This year, you can expect to see the community newsletter every other month (Oct, Dec, Feb, April, and June). Additionally if you are a mentor, Scholar, or staff/faculty, we will begin our monthly newsletters next week.

We are always looking for ideas and stories, so feel free to reach out if you have any recommendations for the Communications team at exito@pdx.edu. We can’t wait to see how this year unfolds through your continued hard work and commitment to our shared efforts!

Check out this video featuring the perspectives a few of our Cohort three Scholars!
Annual Diversity Program Consortium

The annual Diversity Program Consortium (DPC) meeting took place in October in Bethesda, MD and included representatives from all 10 BUILD sites. The EXITO staff was thrilled to be joined by our colleague, Dr. Margaret Hattori-Uchima, from UoG!

We had a great time presenting posters on our program model and preliminary results and talking with other sites about successes and challenges in program implementation.

Check out our snazzy posters below that showcase the Scholar Pathway and our EXITO consortium!

Click for enlarged EXITO Network Poster

Click for enlarged Scholar Pathway Poster

Alyssa Libak
EXITO Scholar - Cohort 3
Clark College
Hometown: Vancouver, WA

BUILD EXITO grants students the extraordinary opportunity to transform communities, build character and impact the lives of many. I chose to be a part of BUILD EXITO to follow the pathway of success and join the next generation of scientific researchers.

Chenoa Bunts-Anderson
EXITO Scholar
Northern Marianas College
Hometown: Saipan, CNMI

For as long as I remember, I've wanted to pursue a career in medical research. That is why I applied for the Build EXITO program and why I am so excited to be working with such talented individuals, from diverse backgrounds, that hold the same goals. Knowing where you're going is important, but it is also important to never forget where you came from. As an EXITO scholar, I am able to represent my community by working in the biomedical field and participating in research that directly focuses on health issues currently impacting underrepresented Pacific populations.