Hello EXITO Scholars!

We are thrilled to bring you the first edition of our monthly newsletter. We use this space to highlight program information, give shout outs to EXITO Scholars and faculty who are doing cool things, and pass on any resources that we think may be of interest.

This month, we want to highlight the ways in which EXITO is being noticed at the national level. See the pic (right) for a visual of Dr. Tom Keller talking about YOU ALL to Dr. Hannah Valentine, the Chief Diversity Officer for the NIH (#nbd). Dr. Valentine, and many others at the annual BUILD meeting, admired your persistence and commitment to your research pathway. We handed out a little booklet of posters that you all have put together and people were so impressed by the independent research you are conducting!

We want you to know that the hard work you are doing and the progress you are making is not going unnoticed. There are many, many people who are cheering you on and here to support you.

Here's to a great year ahead,
The EXITO staff

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**Highlights**

**Scholars being AWESOME**

All, you aren’t going to believe how awesome Diana Demchenko is! (Ok, so if you know her, you probably already know she is, but this is something to celebrate!)

Diana Demchenko received one of the two $8000 Undergraduate Research Fellowships awarded by the Oregon NASA Space Grant Consortium. Read more about this award [here](#) or check out [Diana’s brilliant abstract here](#).

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**EXITO Program Stuff**

**Attn: Scholars who will attend PSU next year!**

The summer induction (Cohort 3) and Summer Immersion (Cohort 2) dates and times have been set. Please mark your calendars and let us know as soon as possible if you think you have a conflict by e-mailing [exito@pdx.edu](mailto:exito@pdx.edu).
Summer Induction: 8/27/18 - 9/21/18
Workshops will be T/Th 10-12, location TBD

Summer Immersion: 7/16/18 - 9/21/18
Workshops will be T/Th 9-12, location TBD

Evaluation...did you know?

YASS/Network Map Surveys Reminder
All Cohort 1 and 2 Scholars should have either received an invitation or already completed the Yearly Academic Scholar Survey (YASS) and Network Map Survey. Responses to both of these surveys are essential to the program and are used to measure and improve BUILD EXITO; both are follow up surveys to help EXITO see if you’ve changed over the last year. If you have not completed these surveys yet, please look to your email – you should receive a reminder today. Any questions? Please email Matt Honoré at honore@ohsu.edu.

Welcome the newest member of our Evaluation Team!

Most of my experience stems from over eight years of working with students and within universities systems. Three of which were spent at University of Oregon’s First-Year Programs working specifically with new and prospective students, including those from underrepresented populations. My own transition from a very small, less than 100 people, high school in rural Oregon to a large university has made me passionate about helping college students navigate higher education. After deciding to return to school to get a Masters in Communication from PSU, I discovered a love of research, critical theory, and survey design.

I have somewhat of a penchant for ending up in foreign countries during political unrest, most recently I was in Turkey during their coup d’etat last year.

For me program evaluation goes beyond data, it provides a unique opportunity for Scholars to gain insight on a research project from a participant’s perspective. Insight that Scholars can use to inform the design and implementation of their own research projects.

Events & Resources

Women in Science Portland Annual Networking Mixer: Are you interested in meeting new students and professionals in scientific careers? Please join the Annual Networking Mixer hosted by Women in Science Portland on November 8th, 5:30-8pm. This event is co-hosted by OMSI and will take place in their fun and dynamic Turbine Hall. All are welcome! For more information and registration, please visit this website.