



BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION
of Northwest Louisiana

1505 Kings Highway
Shreveport, LA 71103

DATE: October 26, 2007

Post Office Box 38050
Shreveport, LA 71133-8050

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tele (318) 675-4100
Fax (318) 675-4120

CONTACT: Jay Meyers, Biomedical Research Foundation
Office: 318-675-4108
Cell: 318-455-9971

www.biomed.org

Curtis Smith, Bossier Parish School System
Office: 318-549-6183

Officers

Chairman of the Board:
Thomas E. McElroy

Immediate Past Chairman:
Vernon B. Chance, Jr.

President:
John F. Sharp

Secretary:
Francesca Benten

Treasurer:
Barrow Peacock

Board of Directors

John E. Atkins
Dr. Ray Belton
Francesca Benten
R. Keith Bergeron
Michael B. Brannan, M.D.
Vernon B. Chance, Jr.
James K. Elrod
Rand Falbaum
Shannon L. Hicks
Carolyn Huckabay
John C. McDonald, M.D.
Thomas E. McElroy
Daryl W. Mitchell, M.D.
Bonnie Moore
Joe Paine, M.D.
Barrow Peacock
Markey W. Pierre
Sandra Roerig, Ph.D.
Kenneth L. Schwab, Ed. D.
John F. Sharp
Virginia K. Shehee
Stephen F. Skrivanos
Ann Stokes
Arthur Thompson
W. Juan Watkins, M.D.

Chair Emeritus:

Virginia K. Shehee

Honorary Member:

J. Bennett Johnston, Jr.

**NEWLY CREATED BOSSIER HIGH SCHOOL BIOTECHNOLOGY
TECHNICAL TRAINING PROGRAM RECEIVES MAJOR GIFTS**

The Biotechnology Technical Training Program in its first year at Bossier High School received donations to purchase advanced scientific equipment.

Major donors include: The Greater Bossier Economic Development Foundation; Business First Bank; KTBS Channel 3 and Ann Stokes. Other contributors include Bossier High School Alumni who made gifts in celebration of the school's 90th anniversary. The Biomedical Research Foundation coordinated the fundraising effort to purchase the advanced scientific equipment for the Biotechnology Technical Training Program.

The goals of the Biotechnology Technical Training Program are

- To provide an avenue for students to obtain valuable technical job skills in the locally growing biotechnology industry, with the potential for further education and training;
- To increase opportunities to earn academic college credits to institutions of higher learning;
- To sustain the training of biotechnology techniques to science teachers each year in order to meet the education needs of students.

-MORE-

Biotechnology Technical Training Program
Page 2

Jack Sharp, Biomedical Research Foundation President and CEO noted, "The Foundation has recognized that one of the most critical components in expanding the local life science and related technologies industry is to cultivate a workforce with scientific skills that span the range of levels in expertise from high school to post-graduate. Over the past several years, the Foundation and its supporters have achieved over \$1.3 million in support of eight innovative math, science and technology initiatives in local schools and universities."

The eight programs supported by the Foundation include:

- Biotechnology Technical Training Program;
- Science and Medicine Academic Research Training (SMART) Program;
- Biotechnology Magnet Academy;
- Environmental and Spatial Technology (EAST) Laboratory;
- For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) Robotics Program;
- Math, Science and Technology (MST) Program;
- Consortium for Education, Research and Technology of North Louisiana (CERT); and the
- LSU Health Sciences Center in Shreveport Biotechnology Ph. D. Track.

(see attachment for additional information on these programs)

According to Curtis Smith, Bossier Parish Science Coordinator, "We appreciate the gifts which helped to purchase key equipment for the Biotechnology Technical Training Program such as analytical balances; lab rotators; water baths; mini vortex mixers; ThermoCyclers and various scientific kits to perform experiments."

There are currently 7 students participating in the program with facilities available for 24 students. The curriculum includes Biotechnology Survey, Biotechnology I, Solution Chemistry for Biotechnology, and Forensic Science. After completing the program, students may receive up to seven hours of college credit.

Bossier Parish high school students who are interested in signing up for the Biotechnology Technical Training Program can contact their high school counselors or Curtis Smith, Bossier Parish Science Coordinator, at 549-6183. The sign up deadline for the Spring 2008 semester is December 7, 2007.

###