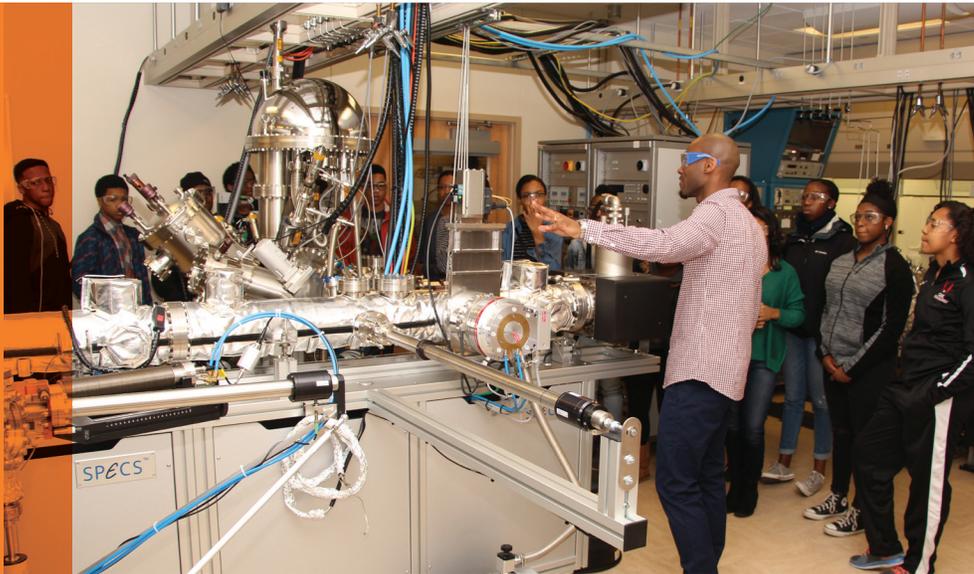


WELCOME TO THE FUTURE

Mentoring students in their research



ACT-SO has been a program of the DuPage County chapter of the NAACP chapter for the past 36 years. The Argonne ACT-SO High School Research Program (ARP) provides mentors and facilities to help students prepare their research for competition.

THE ARGONNE ACT-SO HIGH SCHOOL RESEARCH PROGRAM'S MISSION

The Argonne ACT-SO High School Research Program's (ARP) mission is to partner Ph.D. and/or other graduate level Argonne researchers with highly motivated African-American high school students to perform imaginative research with a high level of rigor in a safe manner in hopes of encouraging these bright young innovators to pursue a career in STEM.

ABOUT THE ARGONNE ACT-SO PARTNERSHIP

Argonne has a collaboration with DuPage County ACT-SO (Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological & Scientific Olympics), a 9th–12th grade high school enrichment program hosted by the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People). There are 32 competition categories in the

areas of the arts, humanities, business, engineering and sciences in which the students can compete.

Started in 2013, this 9-month Argonne STEM enrichment volunteer-based program was designed to provide real world research experiences that capture the imagination of these inquisitive African-American high school students in hopes of inspiring them to pursue careers in STEM.

HOW POST DOCS AND OTHER SCIENTISTS CAN HELP

As a mentor you can work with students to guide planning, design and implementation of research projects, which lead to the completion of a competitive paper, poster and presentation.

You can also **be a leader** by serving as a co-chair. The co-chairs recruit and train mentors, facilitate student-mentor pairing, organize the monthly workshops, recruit career speakers,

ensure that students have all the supplies needed for research projects, serve as a point of contact for parents, mentors, students and the local ACT-SO chapter committee.

HOW NON-SCIENTISTS AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS CAN PARTICIPATE

You can join the Argonne African American ERG (Employee Resource Group), the program's host organization, and serve in a program support role (you do not have to be African-American to join).

If you are an external organization, you might want to start your own partnership with ACT-SO or join Argonne's program. Yes, we welcome volunteers from other institutions and are more than happy to share our very successful model with those who want to start their own program.



EVOLUTION OF THE PROGRAM'S SUCCESS

| 2013–2014 | | |
|---------------|---|--------------------------------|
| PARTICIPATION | LOCAL AWARDEES | NATIONAL AWARDEES |
| 15 students | 3 Gold 1 Silver 1 Bronze | 1 Gold |
| 2014–2015 | | |
| PARTICIPATION | LOCAL AWARDEES | NATIONAL AWARDEES |
| 17 students | 5 Gold 3 Silver 5 Bronze 1 Honorable Mention | 1 Gold 1 Silver |
| 2015–2016 | | |
| PARTICIPATION | LOCAL AWARDEES | NATIONAL AWARDEES |
| 20 students | 2 Gold 1 Silver 1 Bronze | 1 Gold 2 Silver 1 Bronze |
| 2016–2017 | | |
| PARTICIPATION | LOCAL AWARDEES | NATIONAL AWARDEES |
| 30 students | 7 Gold 7 Silver 6 Bronze | 3 Gold 1 Silver 1 Bronze |

The ARP meets for a monthly Saturday session during the academic year from October through March. In addition, each mentor meets with a student on a periodic basis from January to March. Mentors lead and engage their mentees in independent research projects that involve formulating hypotheses, selecting the proper equipment, measuring progress, and inspiring scientific and personal discoveries.

HOW WE MEASURE SUCCESS

Medals are a small measure of the program's success, and as shown in our Program Evolution, we get more than our fair share of medals at the National ACT-SO Competition. Not shown in the Program Evolution are the many awards received at the local competitions.

Primarily, we know it is successful when we see kids who were painfully shy and unsure of themselves transition to confident innovators with their own point of view who are determined to pursue a challenging STEM discipline for college.

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