



Delaware Governors' Biotechnology Scholarship Fund

Contact: Dale Ervin, 302-369-3034 or Maria Taylor 302-388-7529

Three Students Receive Delaware Governors' Biotechnology Scholarships Awards

Newark, DE—May 18, 2010

Governor Jack Markell presented the 2010 Delaware Governors' Biotechnology Fund Scholarships to three students last evening at a banquet held at the Deerfield Golf and Tennis Club last night.

Scholarships were presented to Charles Eke, a student at Delaware State University; Nathan Pomroy, a student at Delaware Technical and Community College; and Melanie Smith, a student at the University of Delaware.

Charles Eke of Plainfield, NJ is a rising junior at Delaware State University. He plans to continue his studies to achieve a Ph.D degree in cell biology, expand his research experience, and establish his own laboratory. Eke will be participating this summer in a 10-week biomedical research internship program at Cornell University Medical School.

Nathan Pomroy of Wilmington, DE is a student at Delaware Technical and Community College, Stanton campus. He is pursuing an Associate's Degree in Biotechnology and Chemistry and scheduled to graduate next year. He plans to continue his studies in this field and work toward a Bachelor's Degree at the University of Delaware. Pomroy is a U.S. Army veteran who served in Iraq 2002-2003.

Melanie Smith of Newark, DE is a rising senior at the University of Delaware in the honors program where she is pursuing a bachelor's of science degree in biological sciences with a concentration in biotechnology and a minor in biochemical engineering. She has worked as an undergraduate researcher at the A.I. DuPont Hospital's medicine lab. Smith plans to continue her post-graduate studies in the field of biotechnology.

In his welcoming remarks, as host of the event, Vidadi Yusibov, Executive Director of Fraunhofer Center for Molecular Biotechnology said, "I thank the University of Delaware, Delaware State University and Delaware Technical and Community College for providing us with these talented students that we honor tonight." He also thanked former Governor Minner and acknowledged that she and her successor, Governor Jack Markell well understand of the important role that the biotechnology industry and the educated scientists it employs can play in the state's economy.

Chris Yochim, Chairman of the Delaware Bioscience Association opened the program by thanking all of the industries that have supported the Bioscience Association and its mission of promoting careers in the life sciences. He thanked volunteers for their participation in education, career guidance, workforce training programs. He remarked that "raising money for scholarships is important, but

equally important is raising the level of community service and awareness of the importance of the life sciences.”

Governor Jack Markell praised the student scholarship winners saying that he was impressed with their biographies. Remarking that one of the students is from Delaware and two are from other states, he said, “ Our job is to keep you here. We are trying to build an economy of companies and emerging industries that need talented, educated people, and that want to be here because we can supply those employees.”

Fred Sears, President and CEO of the Delaware Community Foundation, that administers the scholarship fund, joined the Governor in presenting the scholarships to the students. He praised Governor Markell for his accomplishments in such a difficult economy – accomplishments recently capped by Delaware success as the first place winner in the competition for Race to the Top education funding. Sears also urged continuing support of the Governor’s Biotechnology Scholarship Fund, noting that the fund has supported annual awards totaling \$10,000 since it was created four years ago.

The program closed with Gilbert Sloan, Chairman of the scholarship Advisory Committee, speaking to the students, applauding them not just for their excellence in scientific studies, but also for their ability to successfully use the tool of language to communicate their achievements, goals and social commitments in their scholarship applications.

The Delaware Governors’ Biotechnology Scholarship Fund was created by the Fraunhofer USA Center for Molecular Biotechnology in 2006 for the purpose of encouraging Delaware students to consider studies and career opportunities in the growing field of biotechnology. The scholarship fund was named to acknowledge the support of state governors, starting with Governor Ruth Ann Minner, for contributing to the growth of the biotechnology industry in the State of Delaware.

A scholarship is awarded to a student from each of the following institutions: The University of Delaware, Delaware State University and Delaware Technical and Community College. Student winners must demonstrate a commitment to pursuing the highest standards of excellence, ethics and compassion in the biotechnology field.

From its inception, local companies, including Astra Zeneca, Fraunhofer USA Center for Molecular Biotechnology, iBio Inc., ANP Technologies Inc. Analtech Inc. and QPS have supported the scholarship fund. The Delaware Governors’ Biotechnology Scholarship Fund is held at the Delaware Community Foundation.

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See attached pictures and information about the scholarship recipients:

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