



XAVIER

UNIVERSITY *of* LOUISIANA

Six Xavier University Students Receive Awards at the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students

New Orleans LA – In an unprecedented accomplishment for the university, six Xavier University of Louisiana students received awards at the 2018 Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (**ABRCMS**) in Indianapolis, Indiana Nov. 14-17 for their innovative research in the Science, Technology, and Engineering and Mathematic (**STEM**) fields.

Students presented their research to a panel of experts in such areas as chemistry, biology, neuroscience, psychology, and physiology at the conference. Six Xavier students were among those receiving an award for their presentations, including: Building Infrastructure Leading to Diversity (**BUILD**) scholars **Blaine Deribgny**, a junior chemistry major; **Lauren Thornton**, a senior biology major; **Chandler Golden**, a senior psychology major; and **Ashley Mello** a junior biology major; Maximizing Access to Research Careers (**MARC**) scholar **Dailia El-Desoky**, a senior physiology major, and Research Initiative for Scientific Enhancement (**RISE**) scholar, **Camilla Do**, a senior chemistry major. All award recipients received a certificate and a three-hundred dollar check.

The four-day conference saw more than 2,000 poster and oral presentations given by undergraduate and post baccalaureate students, and featured scientific and professional development sessions, over 380 exhibit booths, networking opportunities, plenary speakers, conference programming tracks for undergraduates, graduates and postdoctoral scientists, and non-students, and an awards banquet.

For more information about ABRCMS can be found at abrcms.org and Xavier University of Louisiana's stem programs, visit www.xula.edu/research.

About Annual Biomedical Research conference for Minority Students

The Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS) was founded by the American Society for Microbiology to encourage minority, first-generation, veteran and disabled students to pursue higher education in STEM. Today, ABRCMS is one of the largest professional conferences for underrepresented students.

About Xavier University of Louisiana

Xavier was recently ranked as the nation's #2 HBCU (Historically Black College and University) by [College Consensus](http://CollegeConsensus.com), a unique college ratings website that aggregates publisher rankings and student

reviews, in its newly released publication, [Best HBCUs for 2018](#). Xavier was also among the four colleges selected by Beyoncé and her [BeyGood Foundation](#) as the recipient of a Homecoming Scholars Scholarship Award announced after her much lauded performance at Coachella, while actor and comedian Kevin Hart has joined forces with UNCF and KIPP (Knowledge Is Power Program) to help 18 more KIPP students earn a college degree – three of whom were Xavier students.

That's just the latest in national accolades Xavier has received as one of the best universities in the country. Most notably, XULA is ranked as the best value among southern regional colleges and universities in the 2018 edition of "Best Colleges" by the *U.S. News Media Group*. Xavier also ranked No.1 in its grouping, heading the list of only 15 schools that qualified for the Southern Region category listed under "Great Schools, Great Prices."

At Xavier *eXcellence awaits yoU*. For more information about Xavier University of Louisiana visit us online at www.xula.edu or follow us on Facebook, YouTube, or Twitter @XULA1925. To book interviews about our recent accomplishments and/or to speak with our experts in the field of pharmacy, education, premed, public health, science, technology, math, business, English, communications and the arts, contact Ashley Irvin (504) 520-5424 or airvin1@xula.edu .

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