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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**SOUTHWOOD HIGH SCHOOL BIOTECHNOLOGY MAGNET ACADEMY
RECEIVES \$25,000 LAPTOP DONATION**

The Southwood High School Biotechnology Magnet Academy, in only its second year, is receiving yet more accolades through a \$25,000 donation of laptops for incoming freshmen by The Poindexter Foundation. The Poindexter Foundation donation will present the students the opportunity to complete assignments, integrate the value of research into the classroom learning experience, and provide them a hands-on opportunity resembling the real-life environments they will confront in collegiate and industrial settings.

"We are excited about the opportunities this provides for our students. For an educator, it is a true high point to be able to offer thriving young students the tools they need to achieve, and watch them expound beyond the simple applications to a much broader integration of the tool for higher learning," said Misty Davis, Biotechnology Science Coordinator.

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2. BIOTECHNOLOGY CONT.

The Biotechnology Magnet Academy at Southwood High School is a critical component of the effort to increase the quality and quantity of the life sciences workforce in Northwest Louisiana. The Southwood Biotechnology program is unique in that it is the only one of its type in the southern United States. Other math and science magnet programs available to students in the South do not include the higher level curriculum which addresses bioscience standards. The rigorous and specific curriculum blends an integrated learning of math, science and English, as well as a mentoring program in the junior year that is followed by an internship in the senior year. Also unique to the program, is the requirement that students use laptops both at school and at home in order to complete assignments. According to a survey conducted by Rockman, Et Al, a San Francisco-based research firm, students that use laptops for school spend more time doing homework, are more engaged in their classes, spend more time in collaborative activities, and spend more time writing than students without laptops. It is widely accepted that the Internet is a powerful learning tool that can provide information and exercises on demand, thereby increasing opportunities for learning.

“The Biotechnology program at Southwood High School emphasizes hands-on laboratory experiences and enhances the higher level science curriculum that would not otherwise be available to students in Caddo Parish. With acceptance into the program, students can earn substantial college credit while in high school, which eases their transition to and allows greater opportunities in higher education,” said Ken Wood, Southwood High School Principal.

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3. BIOTECHNOLOGY CONT.

“We are pleased to be able to offer these aspiring students greater technological access, furthering their abilities to perform and helping to grow a biotechnology literate workforce,” said Jack Sharp, President and CEO of the Biomedical Research Foundation.

The Biomedical Research Foundation, LSU Health Science Center, Louisiana State University-Shreveport, Bossier Parish Community College, and CERT are all community partners in the Biotechnology Magnet Academy at Southwood High School.

In addition to the Biotechnology program, Southwood High School has other programs exclusive to the neighborhood school, that have matriculated approximately 2000 students through the specialty areas with impressive and traceable results. The Math, Science & Technology Program (MST) focuses on project-based learning and the integration of technology into the learning process and is the catalyst for the other programs. One of those programs is the For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) curriculum. FIRST classes are offered to students grades 9-12 as a mentoring and leadership-based program for engineering design and robotics.

EAST, another unique magnet component at Southwood High School, is an innovative, project-based learning environment in which students work together in a collaborative setting using the most current, and advanced technologies available. The curriculum is structured around students developing specific projects to improve their school and community. Students use the capabilities of a multi-faceted computer laboratory as a resource to accomplish their goals. EAST students were recently awarded Superior Performance ratings in the National EAST Conference having scored only one point short of a perfect score. EAST stresses real-world application of traditional learning.

For more information regarding the Biotechnology or any of the other curricula, please contact Ken Wood, Misty Davis, Annetta Garner or Jeff Roberts at 318-686-9512.

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The local Biomedical Research Foundation of Northwest Louisiana is focused on creating an environment that will attract biotechnology industries to our area. An important component in building this environment is to develop an educated work force. In response to this need, Southwood High School has partnered with the Biomedical Research Foundation, Louisiana State University Health Science Center and participating biotech industries to develop a Biotechnology Magnet program exclusive to our neighborhood school.

Students who participate will enter the program as freshmen and will complete courses that address the Bioscience Skills Standards.

- Mentoring Program during the junior year provided by the PhD Biotechnology Program at LSUHSC
- Participation in an internship program during the senior year through participating partners such as the Biomedical Research Foundation, LSUHSC, LSUS, and participating companies within the Intertech Science Park

CAREER FIELDS:

- Biomanufacturing
- Bioengineering
- Clinical Research
- Pharmaceutical Research and Development
- Bioinformatics
- Medical Clinical Laboratory Technicians

ELIGIBILITY:

- A minimum 2.5 GPA
- Scores on or above the 50th percentile in total mathematics and total reading on the most recent nationally standardized test
- Passing scores on the 8th grade LEAP tests
- A good attendance/discipline record



FRESHMAN

English I Honors
Algebra I Honors
Computer Applications
World Geography Honors
Physical Education/JROTC
Biology I
Foreign Language I & II

SOPHOMORE

English II Honors
Geometry Honors
Algebra II Honors
Biology II AP
Civics/Free Interprise
Chemistry I Honors
Physical Education/Health/JROTC
Microbiology/Genetics

JUNIOR

English III Honors
Advanced Math or Probability & Statistics
American History AP
Molecular/Cell Biology
Lab Techniques and Instrumentation
Biotechnology Ethics and Issues
Elective

SENIOR

English IV AP
Calculus AP
Physics
Senior Project/Internship
Biotechnology Seminar
2 Electives

CONTACT PERSONS: Misty Davis, Biotechnology Science Coordinator
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PARTNERS: Biomedical Research Foundation, LSUHSC, LSUS, Bossier Parish
Community College, CERT



EAST is an innovative project-based learning environment in which students work together in a collaborative setting using the most current, high-end technologies available. The class is structured around students developing specific projects to improve their school and community. Students use the capabilities of a sophisticated computer laboratory as a resource to accomplish their goals. The EAST program is a nationally recognized initiative which exposes students to strategies that help move them from traditional, self-centered approaches to learning in a more realistic, interdependent environment that stresses understanding and collaborative approaches to problem solving.

EAST stresses real-world applications of traditional learning.

- Network Systems
- Administration
- Desktop Publishing
- Presentation Applications
- Computer-Aided Design (CAD)
- Visualization Software
- Global Positioning Systems (GPS)
- Geographical Information Systems (GIS)
- Web Page Design
- Computer-Generated Animation
- Architecture and Design
- Solid Modeling and Assembly
- Database Management
- Raster-Based Spatial Analysis
- Programming
- Design Concepts and Applications
- Digital Video Production and Editing

CONTACT PERSON: Lloyd Rushing and Carolyn Laskowski, EAST instructors
318-686-9512



**FOR INSPIRATION AND RECOGNITION
OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY - FIRST**

FIRST is a robotics lab course that teams professionals and students in order to solve engineering design problems in an intense and competitive environment. Students are responsible for the design and construction of a robot which will complete specific tasks in a competitive setting. The competitions, held at both the regional and national levels, show students that technological disciplines hold countless, exciting opportunities for their futures. The FIRST Robotics lab reinforces the importance of education and careers in science, technology, engineering a fascinating, professional, real-world experience and math. In addition to enjoying a unique learning opportunity, participants in this class are also eligible to apply for a variety of scholarships through the program. This class is offered to grades 9-12.

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