Psychology Students Presented at Research Conference

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NORWALK, Calif. – May 8, 2014 - Cerritos College psychology students and faculty members had the honor of presenting their original empirical and pedagogical research at the 94th Annual Western Psychological Association Conference in Portland, Oregon, held from April 26 to 27.

Nine students presented original research they conducted during a laboratory course with Dr. Kimberley J. Duff in the psychology department. Students spent months designing and conducting research and writing a paper prior to submitting and accepted into the conference.

“This was an amazing opportunity for Cerritos College students to experience a professional conference” said Dr. Kimberley Duff, professor of psychology, who took the students to the conference.

Students benefit tremendously from networking at these conferences. While at the conference, the students were able to connect with faculty from four year institutions and many of them received their acceptance letters to schools such as California State University, Long Beach, the University of California, Irvine, and the University of California, Berkeley. In the past, Cerritos College students who have presented research at WPA before have taken advantage of their conference experience when they transferred - some were offered to work with faculty in psychology labs and some secured scholarships.

“This type of professional event opens many doors for our students and enhances their classroom experience,” said Dr. Duff.

“The conference was such an amazing experience and I feel that I greatly benefited not just as a student but also as an individual,” said Alejandro Vega, who presented his original research at the conference. “This experience really opened my eyes into what education is really about because I have never attended something like this before.”
Another student Angel Perez echoed. “Having the opportunity to present my research on false memory in front of students and professors from all over the United States was great,” said Perez. “Leaving WPA I felt much more confident in my public speaking skills.”

Vega plans on transferring to either the University of California, Santa Barbara or Irvine this fall and conducting more research on interesting topics.

Perez has recently been admitted to the University of California, Irvine and will be double majoring in criminology and psychology in the fall. His goal is to go to a law school and work as a district attorney.

Following is the list of the presenters and the titles of the presentations:


The impacts of false memory on helping behavior by Perez, A. Feliz, G., Burgueno, G., Spirlin, L., & Gonzalez, A. (2014)

Cognitive dissonance by Munive, J.(2014)

What makes a successful Psi Beta Chapter by Gomez. A. (2014)

The Cerritos College Foundation and the Associated Students of Cerritos College generously funded this academic endeavor.

For more information about the Cerritos College psychology program, please visit www.cerritos.edu/psychology or contact Kimberley J. Duff at (562) 860-2451, ext. 2780 or kduff@cerritos.edu.

About Cerritos College: Cerritos College serves as a comprehensive community college for southeastern Los Angeles County. Communities within the college’s district include Artesia, Bellflower, Cerritos, Downey, Hawaiian Gardens, La Mirada, Norwalk, and portions of Bell Gardens, Lakewood, Long Beach, Santa Fe Springs and South Gate. Cerritos College offers degrees and certificates in more than 180 areas of study in nine divisions. Annually, more than 1,200 students successfully complete their course of studies, and enrollment currently averages 23,000 students. Visit Cerritos College online at http://www.cerritos.edu/.

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