

## The Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center (LSUHSC)-New Orleans Schools Science Partnership Program

We believe that New Orleans students need a strong educational foundation in the sciences and should be exposed to professional role models from the scientific community to enhance their academic enthusiasm and opportunity for success.

The goals of the program include:

- making science more interesting, easier to understand, and accessible in the classroom through hands-on science activities in coordination with the school administrators and teachers based on their current curriculum
- improving 4th grade science standardized test scores
- exposing 4th graders attending New Orleans public, charter, and recovery district schools to positive and diverse science professionals and trainees as role models

Volunteer instructors include students, post-doctoral fellows, and faculty from the Schools of Graduate Studies, Medicine, Allied Health Professions, Dentistry, Public Health, and Nursing.

Currently we teach at our partner schools, St. Peter Claver School, Esperanza Elementary School, Lafayette Academy, and McDonough 42 Elementary School several times a month. We also collaborate with Langton Hughes Elementary, Medard Nelson, and Good Shepherd Schools. The Director of the LSU-New Orleans School Science Partnership Program is Dr. Fern Tsien, faculty from the Department of Genetics.

To volunteer for the Science Partnership, click [here](#)



From left to right: Dr. Fern Tsien Director of the LSUHSC New Orleans Schools Science Partnership Program; Dr. Kathleen McDonough, Professor and Associate Dean of Graduate Studies, Director of MD/PhD Program, Director of Interdisciplinary Program; and Dr. Joseph Moerschbaeche, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs & Dean, School of Graduate Studies



From left to right: Dr. Andrew Hollenbach (Genetics); Ayesha Umrigar (Genetics); Dr. Tsien; and Leigh Smith-Vaniz, Coordinator of Student Affairs.



Clockwise from top left:  
 Hannah Albritton (MD/PhD, MIP),  
 Helena Ochoa (Epidemiology/Public Health),  
 Dr. Tsien (Genetics),  
 Matthew Spence (Epidemiology/Public Health)



### LSUHSC-New Orleans School Science Partnership Program Field Day

The year-long program culminates with a field trip to LSUHSC. Laboratory activities included: DNA isolation from strawberries; human organ demonstrations including the effects of smoking on the human lungs; and an activity on blood components. Instructors included: Philip Brunetti (Medicine), Catherine Kim (Biochemistry), Elizabeth Kim (Biochemistry), Dr. Danielle Mercer (Genetics), Mary Moore (Genetics and Biostatistics/Public Health), Nouri Ningbinnin (MIP), Dr. Virginia Ronchi (Biochemistry), Matthew Spence (Epidemiology/Public Health), Dustin Todaro (Biochemistry), Dr. Tsien (Genetics), Ayesha Umrigar (Genetics), Dr. Rafael Velasquez (MIP), and Chelsey Walker (Medicine). They received inspirational talk by Dr. Dereck Rovaris (Diversity Vice-Provost of Diversity for LSU), lunch, and books from the LSUHSC campus- book drive.



Isolating DNA from strawberries!



Dr. Dereck Rovaris, Vice Provost of Diversity at Louisiana State University.



Biochemistry MD/PhD student Dustin Todaro demonstrating the lungs and the heart



Dr. Rafael Velasquez (MIP) demonstrating normal and diseased organs



Elizabeth Kim, Catherine Kim, Chelsey Walker, and Matthew Spence hand out lunches.



The children chose books from the LSUHSC Campus-wide book drive.

