

BioBuilder alumnae inspire with stories of life-changing experiences as interns



This inspirational group of local women, all recent alumnae of the BioBuilder high-school internship program, now major in biochemistry and biomedical engineering at colleges around New England. From left to right: Susana Donkor (Boston Latin/ MassBiologics intern); Pamela Shehu (West Roxbury Academy/Codiak intern); Prachee Mazumder (Cambridge Rindge and Latin / Broad Institute intern); Melissa Aguirre-Pinillos (Melrose High / BioBuilder intern)

Photo Credit: BioBuilder Educational Foundation.

Cambridge, MA, May 22, 2019 – Four recent alumnae of the BioBuilder internship program inspired next-generation students with their success stories during the program’s spring celebration at the BioBuilder Learning Lab at LabCentral in Cambridge last week. The emerging scientists spoke of the tremendous impact BioBuilder’s hands-on science training had on their personal and academic paths.

Susana: “I’m glad to see that the program is helping other students like myself and I am forever grateful for the opportunity [BioBuilder] gave me.”

The 16 students in this summer’s internship class listened carefully as the internship alums recalled special moments in the lab, tales of challenges “on the job,” and descriptions of what it is like to continue their science learning at the college level.

Christopher Fernandez from East Boston High School and a member of the current internship class commented, “I appreciate you guys taking your time to teach us and giving us this opportunity to learn more about what you do in these types of jobs.”

Each year in the spring, a group of Boston-area students is selected for BioBuilder's High-School Apprenticeship Challenge. Over 8 weeks in April and May, the students work after school in BioBuilder's Learning Lab at LabCentral in Kendall Square to build the knowledge, techniques, research-based thinking and professional skills they will need. BioBuilder then facilitates - and often underwrites - a summer internship with a local bioscience company or academic lab for each student.

About LabCentral

LabCentral offers fully permitted laboratory and office space for as many as 60 startups in its 70,000 square-foot facility in the heart of Kendall Square. LabCentral also houses the BioBuilder Learning Lab, comprised of a working wet lab and adjoining classroom. New England Biolabs® has become the primary sponsor of the Learning Lab where BioBuilder to delivers educational programs for students and teachers.

About BioBuilder

Created by an award-winning team at MIT, BioBuilder offers new ways to teach, learn, and explore cutting-edge science and engineering. BioBuilder provides students the chance to integrate biology and engineering through practical, hands-on lessons, club activities, and school-to-work experiences. Teachers learn new methods of teaching that engage and inspire the young scientists in their classrooms. Visit www.biobuilder.org to learn more.

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