

May 27, 2011

Annual Report to the Provost (2010-2011)

Biotechnology (BIT) Program

Robert M. Kelly, Director

Programs:

- 12% increase in course enrollments (509) over 2009-10; 1320 lab course CH taught
- Y2 of NSF REU Program in Synthetic Plant Biology
- Y2 of Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) Freshman Inquiry Course
- Y11 of NIH T32 Graduate Biotechnology Training Program (57 trainees to date)
- Y17 of DoEd GAANN Fellowship Program in Biotechnology (110 fellows to date)
- Held 6th Molecular Biotechnology Research Symposium

Initiatives:

- Helped College of Textiles faculty member launch biomaterials research effort
- Developed first BIT lab course (BIT 100) for non-STEM majors – offered summer 2011
- Started BIT SURE – Summer Undergrad Research Initiative
- Launched two new BIT modules (Plant Genetic Engineering, Deep Sequencing)

Diversity:

- Held summer biotech workshops for URM students from NCHSSM
- NSF REU Program hosted several URM students in summer, 2010

Staff:

- Dr. John Chisnell, Asst. Director, resigned effective on June 30, 2011
- Search begun for Program Associate
- Dr. Sue Carson, Academic Coordinator, promoted to Teaching Associate Professor
- Melissa Cox, Lab Manager, had position upgraded to reflect new responsibilities
- Dr. Melissa Srougi joined Program as Teaching Postdoctoral Fellow

Recommendations/Concerns:

- Significant space problems with rapid increase in enrollments

Please refer to May 9, 2011 presentation to the BIT Administrative Advisory Committee presentation and corresponding report for additional details and examples of how BIT Program has enhanced student success, faculty research, and interdisciplinary scholarship. These materials also illustrate how BIT Program embraces a culture of constant improvement.