Top CSU science student to study at Argentina’s LeLoir Institute

Chicago (March 13, 2009) — One of the Chicago area’s most promising science students has been invited to study at a world-renowned biological research center in South America. Aisha Williams, a junior majoring in biochemistry and biology at Chicago State University will study this summer at the prestigious LeLoir Institute in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Ms. Williams is one of 20 undergraduate students nationwide who will study abroad this year as part of the Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LSAMP) Center for International Research. The National Science Foundation-funded program focuses on helping more minority students earn baccalaureate degrees in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, with the goal of increasing the number of doctorates in those fields.

Ms. Williams maintains a perfect 4.0 grade point average while pursuing two science degrees and a minor in Spanish. She developed a love of biology and botany at a young age and studied at the Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences before graduating from Harlan Community Academy High School. Her parents, Douglas and Anner Williams, live just a few blocks from the CSU campus on the city’s South Side.

Her goals are to graduate from CSU with a perfect GPA, earn a doctorate in biochemistry at Cornell University, and then teach in a country that has been ravaged by war.

She credits the research-friendly atmosphere and attentive faculty at Chicago State with allowing her scientific skills to flourish. “The opportunity to do research here is immeasurable,” said Williams. “I have done research every semester I have been here, except one. They expect you to do it.”