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FAU Harbor Branch Summer Intern Program Attracts Top Students from Around the World

FORT PIERCE, Fla. (June 3, 2015) – A select group of ocean science and engineering students from across the globe have made their way to Florida Atlantic University’s Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute (HBOI) to spend the summer studying alongside top scientists in their fields. HBOI’s highly competitive summer internship program, now in its 42nd year, provides undergraduate and graduate students with the opportunity to work with an HBOI faculty mentor to devise, develop and complete an independent research project.

“The opportunity I’ve been given to intern at Harbor Branch has really solidified my passion for biology and cancer research,” said Rakeem Marcelle, an HBOI summer intern and undergraduate student from Brown University.

The program attracts students from prestigious universities worldwide including Rutgers University, Duke University, Pennsylvania State University, Florida Atlantic University and the University of São Paulo. The program typically receives 70 to 100 applications per year and accepts about 20 interns.

“Our summer intern program is a great opportunity for students to experience training in one of our science or engineering labs with faculty mentors and other Harbor Branch staff,” said Dennis Hanisak, Ph.D., program director and research professor. “This experience better prepares them for future careers and makes them more competitive for jobs when they graduate.”

The HBOI summer intern program was launched in 1974 with support from the Link Foundation. The program has hosted more than 500 college and university students from around the world in this 10-week summer research experience. Support for the program also comes from the Gertrude E. Skelly Charitable Foundation, which funds students selected to work in the HBOI marine biomedical and biotechnology program.

For more information, call Carin Smith at 772-242-2230 or visit fau.edu/hboi/education/internship.php.

About Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute:

Founded in 1971, Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute at Florida Atlantic University is a research community of marine scientists, engineers, educators and other professionals focused on Ocean Science for a Better World. The institute drives innovation in ocean engineering, at-sea operations, drug discovery and biotechnology from the oceans, coastal ecology and conservation, marine mammal research and conservation, aquaculture, ocean observing systems and marine education. For more information, visit www.hboi.fau.edu.

About Florida Atlantic University:

Florida Atlantic University, established in 1961, officially opened its doors in 1964 as the fifth public university in Florida. Today, the University, with an annual economic impact of \$6.3 billion, serves more than 30,000 undergraduate and graduate students at sites throughout its six-county service region in southeast Florida. FAU's world-class teaching and research faculty serves students through 10 colleges: the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters, the College of Business, the College for Design and Social Inquiry, the College of Education, the College of Engineering and Computer Science, the Graduate College, the Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College, the Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine, the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing and the Charles E. Schmidt College of Science. FAU is ranked as a High Research Activity institution by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. The University is placing special focus on the rapid development of critical areas that form the basis of its strategic plan: Healthy aging, biotech, coastal and marine issues, neuroscience, regenerative medicine, informatics, lifespan and the environment. These areas provide opportunities for faculty and students to build upon FAU's existing strengths in research and scholarship. For more information, visit www.fau.edu.