President of DuPont Pioneer Paul E. Schickler (center) with the 2016 Science Bound graduates from Des Moines and Iowa State University during the Honors Banquet hosted at DuPont Pioneer’s Carver Center (see page 3).
Change is a constant not only for people, but also for organizations. Science Bound has seen many changes in the past 12 months. For instance, last year Dr. Denice Ross Haynes stepped in as acting director for Science Bound, and I thank her for her leadership in the position. We also moved to a new institutional home in the School of Education and College of Human Sciences and celebrated the grand opening of our new office space in 2156 Gilman Hall (see page 8). This new space gives the first-year students easy access to Science Bound staff and resources, including computers and study space. It is also an important milestone for Science Bound: a secure foundation to build on our 25-year legacy of empowering students of color to become successful science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) professionals.

Although we have made many changes, some things remain the same. For instance, our annual Honors Banquet where we celebrated 36 high school students who completed the five-year Science Bound program, and nine college students who earned degrees from Iowa State University. DuPont Pioneer President Paul E. Schickler delivered the keynote address. See page 3.

Science Bound Saturday, the 8th grade “Nothing Less Than Success” Science Fair, and parent meetings remain a strong backbone of Science Bound (see pages 4 and 5). We feature a parents’ perspective on the Science Bound experience, as well as the voice of experience from a Science Bound alum and STEM professional, Dr. Charles E. Stewart. See pages 6 and 7.

Of course there will be more changes ahead as we celebrate our 25th year in Des Moines (see page 8). But you can be confident that one thing will not change: our passion to empower students to excel in STEM fields by collaborating with our most important partner – YOU.

Sincerely,

Dr. Connie Hargrave, Director
Science Bound celebrated a record-breaking year with 59 high school seniors graduating from the pre-college programs in three school districts (Des Moines 36, Denison 12, Marshalltown 11) and 12 Iowa State University (ISU) graduates. In Des Moines, the 2016 Honors Banquet took place at DuPont Pioneer’s Carver Center in Johnston, Iowa on April 21. More than 180 guests attended the banquet, including 36 high school and 9 Iowa State University seniors, to celebrate and to hear the President of DuPont Pioneer, Paul E. Schickler, who delivered the keynote address.

According to Dr. Connie Hargrave, Science Bound director, the banquet is, “more than a celebration, it’s a formal public acknowledgement of the accomplishments of these seniors. It’s a visual confirmation of the ability of each of our students to excell in college and their career.”

Schickler emphasized to the students the role of passion in their futures. “Knowledge and passion combined can create a positive impact that makes the world a better place,” said Schickler. “Passion, energy, and commitment, will help you be a part of the solutions that we need today.”

“It’s both an honor and a big deal that DuPont Pioneer President Paul Schickler is recognizing the importance and the significance of our Science Bound students,” said Dr. Hargrave.

Students speaker Bryan Marroquin Martinez (Roosevelt, Callanan) is just one of those significant students. Marroquin Martinez, who received his bachelor’s degree in construction engineering from ISU in May, shared that although his start was a bumpy one, participating in Science Bound made his time in college rewarding.

“When I joined Science Bound I was a fourteen-year-old with hopes of college but little direction and support for getting me there. Now I am a young man, who on July 5, 2016, will start a new job as a control engineer with the Baker Group in Des Moines.” said Marroquin Martinez.

During the evening Science Bound also recognized the students who went the extra mile, during their high school career by seeking out opportunities and making positive things happen. Two Science Bound graduates, Madeline Edmonds (East) and Adbisalan Omar (Roosevelt) share the Student of the Year award for 2016.

“These students understand that this is their time – their time to learn, grow, and develop themselves and they have consistently made the most of the Science Bound opportunity,” said Dr. Hargrave.
2016 High School Graduates

**East**
Tiffany Contreras
Madeline Edmonds*
Alexus Garcia
Nia Johnson*
Giovanni Mejia
Wilfredo Reyes
Tameika Ward

**Hoover**
Linda Brown
Tylen Chestnut*
Brianna Hale
Jasmin Jabbar

**Lincoln**
Rachael Bosiljevac*
Carolina DeAvila
Symphanee Fisher
Federico Ortega*
Kaysia Vercher
Brooke Wilson

**North**
Margarita Clemente*
Thomas Gomez
Mayte Gomez-Cruz*
Karen Anahi Granados Nava*
Arianna Magallanes
Fahmo Mohamed*
Daniela Ortiz
Martin Rodriguez, Jr.
Alejandra Villanueva

**Roosevelt**
Daljoan Evans
Zakariyah Hill
Jazzaray James*
Simone Kapayou
Xarius Mickens
Abdisalan Omar
Alan Ramirez
Yvonne San Elias
Stacia Taylor
Tyanna Whitaker*

*High school senior high cumulative grade point average honorees: 3.75-4.0 plus

**Iowa State University**
Jasmin Cabrera
Maia Craddock
Vivian De La Cruz
Victor Gomez
Aliyah Hoskins
Dhyasah James
Bryan Marroquin
Niibari Mengebo
David Mwirichia
Freddy Ramirez
Kierra Osborn
Diana Yepez

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Left to right: Becky, Victor, Natasha, and Thomas Gomez were recognized as a Science Bound legacy family at the Honors Banquet. All four Gomez siblings will be at Iowa State this fall.

Science Bound parent Penny Edmonds (far left, standing) addresses families at the Science Bound parent meeting in March.

Science Bound students pose after Shadow Day on the Iowa State campus in February.

(from left) Abdisalan Omar (Roosevelt) and Madeline Edmonds (East) receive Student of the Year awards during the 2016 Honors Banquet.
Highlights

Cecilia Rodriguez (Brody, Lincoln) working on a lab activity during the Science Bound visit.

Andrea Fondren (ISU) discussing her summer research project during the Science Bound Open House (see page 8).

Students from Hoover High School during their Saturday visit.

William Clemmons (Roosevelt) shares his experiences during a Saturday visit to ISU.

Students at Lincoln High School build towers during their Science Bound meeting.
Angela Mickens, surgical nurse at Iowa Methodist Medical Center, and parent of four children, encouraged her youngest child, Xarius Mickens (Roosevelt) to participate in the Science Bound program when he was invited as a 7th grader at Moulton Extended Learning Center.

“He always showed an interest and intellect in science and math. I knew this program could groom and support him in his academic endeavors,” said Mickens.

Mickens wanted Xarius to participate in Science Bound because it would give him the opportunity to explore his options in science and math.

Xarius has had many positive experiences in Science Bound, according to Mickens. One of the summer programs that benefited Xarius was “Learn and Earn”. Mickens said “the program gave him a format of what society expects: positive work ethics and earning what you deserve.”

Mickens believes the Science Bound program helped her son become more comfortable socially as well. “I have seen Xarius become more engaged with the world around him since participating with the program,” said Mickens.

Science Bound has also helped Xarius learn and develop skills that will benefit him in his career.

“One skill I hope that Xarius will gain from participating in the program is proper presentation of self, in which the world can see what he can contribute as a human being,” said Mickens.

Additionally, she shared that the opportunity that Science Bound offers provides students with academic and personal support, which includes access to financial resources and professional references. “The men being present to teach my young man has had the most profound effect of all,” added Mickens.

“Xarius will be attending Iowa State University in the fall of 2016 and will major in chemical engineering,” said his proud mother. “I see him accomplishing his degree in chemical engineering and working for a pharmacological company of his choice.”

Science Bound is Iowa State University’s premier pre-college educational program to increase the number of diverse Iowans who earn degrees in agriculture, science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Science Bound works with middle and high schools in Des Moines, Denison and Marshalltown, Iowa.
For 25 years Science Bound has been empowering students of color to excel in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) careers. In 2000, Dr. Charles E. Stewart, Jr. (Meredith, North) became the first Science Bound graduate to earn a Bachelor of Science degree from Iowa State University (ISU). After receiving his agricultural biochemistry degree, Stewart went on to earn his Ph.D. in plant biology at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. Now, Dr. Stewart is an associate scientist, researcher and facility manager for the Macromolecular X-ray Crystallography facility at ISU.

Throughout school Dr. Stewart had a desire to be involved in research and development. His most exciting moments in Science Bound were participating in hands-on science projects, going to weekly meetings and learning about STEM professions. He added that the meetings helped him stay focused on his academics.

Science Bound also helped Dr. Stewart gain self-confidence. “I have expanded my horizon of what’s possible and have the confidence that I can go into new areas of science” he said.

Dr. Stewart shared some advice based on his own experiences:

**Think four years down the road.**
Some of Dr. Stewart’s academic challenges came when he was an undergraduate. He combated stress and some academic challenges, especially in physics. From these experiences Dr. Stewart learned to set goals and develop plans. “Plans always change and it is normal to change plans when you have new experiences. But you should have an idea of the direction you want to go; it will help you evaluate opportunities and make decisions.”

**Take advantage of opportunities to actively do science, math and research.**
Dr. Stewart believes that college is about the development of the mind and person, and that some of that development is achieved outside of the classroom. “There are a lot of things that you will learn by DOING science, math or research. You’re not going to learn everything from a textbook. … Experience will help you decide if you really want to go to graduate school,” said Dr. Stewart.

**Be curious.**
“Science Bound helped me develop a sense of curiosity, which fueled my passion for learning, which ultimately built a solid, well-rounded foundation in science.” Dr. Stewart advised the Science Bound students to “work on developing and exploring your curiosity about nature and the world around them. Learn to ask questions if you don’t know or don’t understand something. Be confident that you can learn anything that you set your mind to.”

“There are whole worlds of options for those in STEM-related careers,” said Dr. Stewart. “I would urge students to embrace the challenges and know that there are people here at ISU (students, staff and faculty) who want to help you succeed.”
On February 9, 2016, Science Bound celebrated the grand opening of new office space located on the second floor of Gilman Hall. This new space will give the first-year students easy access to Science Bound staff and resources, including computers and study space. Last year Science Bound remodeled and moved into the new area, which marks an important milestone in Science Bound’s growth. The move positions the program to better meet the needs of the growing number of students in the districts (nearly 425) and at Iowa State (nearly 180).

Watch for anniversary information soon (October 21-22, 2016).