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Institute postdoctoral student, she developed and implemented two undergraduate research courses that are still offered at ISU. Her most recent role was serving as an Associate Scientist and Graduate Faculty member within the Roy J. Carver Department of Biochemistry, Biophysics and Molecular Biology. She also served as the Director for Teaching-as-Research projects for ISU.

Dr. Campbell took time from her busy schedule recently to answer a few questions about her transition into the new role and to share what she envisions for the future of the program.

**What attracted you to a career in STEM, and what are some of the greatest takeaways you’ve had thus far?**

When I came to ISU I thought I’d be a medical doctor; since the time that I was young, I wanted to be a doctor. I even participated in medical missions trips in Nicaragua and Costa Rica. But when I came back my sophomore year, I started an NSF REU (research experience for undergraduates). I was paired with a faculty member in the biochemistry department, and I enjoyed doing the research. I then started my Ph.D. in his lab and kept going. I learned that within research you can enjoy doing the research. I then started my Ph.D. in his lab and kept going. I learned that within research you can enjoy doing the research.

**What is one quote you live by?**

I like being able to look at things that give you a sense of empowerment. The first [mantra jewelry band saying] I’ve got says, “she believed she could so she did.” Now I have, “let your light shine.”

**What advice would you give to students as they take their “next steps” in STEM?**

Be open to opportunities and communicate. Make sure that you go into any situation studied. Before you email or reach out to somebody, make sure that you know them and you’ve done your due diligence. In having those conversations, know who you are and believe in yourself as a scientist or engineer. Si se puede!

**What has surprised you the most about working with Science Bound?**

All of the different pieces that make up Science Bound. It takes passionate people to be able to make it happen. It’s beautiful and different than what I’ve experienced before. Science Bound is what makes Iowa State special.

**What do you envision in terms of Science Bound’s future?**

I think right now my primary focus is really understanding the whole program. Science Bound is very well-established. I’m the first full-time director, so probably the biggest change is that I’m able to be available all the time. Also, for the undergraduate program this semester we’ve made a concerted effort to incorporate more STEM concepts, as well as within our high school leadership program.

**Any final thoughts?**

I think it’s important to know who you are and make sure that you’re doing what you need to do to make, or create, new and better situations for yourself. I’m excited to see what the next few years bring.
HIGHLIGHTS & RECOGNITION

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2018

High School Graduates

East

From left: Teachers Nikki Dorr and Lauren Barry, Henry Artero, teacher Ryan Gladson, Valeria Cruz, Cindy Delgado, Sadie Jackson, Victoria Lewis, Tera Richardson, and Denise San Elias. Not pictured: Francisco Chavez, Joaquin Chavez, Nayeli Macias-Torres.

North

From left: Andrea Cortez-Castillo, Justyne Crawford, Rosemary Galdamez, Vair Gomez-Cruz, Robert Nishimwe, Dillon Rover, and teacher Jessica Lambert.

Hoover

From left: Teacher Megan Kinder, Jose Rodriguez Campos, Xavier Robles, Elizabeth Mora-Huber, and Nyakota Ding. Not pictured: Ja’Von Willis.

Lincoln

From left: Miguel Vazquez-Espinoza, Daionn Harris, Kylie Grant, Maria Cruz, Yesica Correa, and teachers Frank Lee, Jr. and Jessica Hart. Not pictured: Jalen Hart.

Iowa State University


SATURDAYS AT IOWA STATE

Purposeful planning provides Science Bound students with up to 15 different agriculture, science, technology, engineering or mathematics (ASTEM) experiences during their time in the program. To accomplish this goal, on three Saturdays each year (called Science Bound Saturdays), approximately 400 students and teachers come to Iowa State for “hands-on” science experiences, laboratory tours and opportunities to experience cutting-edge research. These experiences help students identify their potential passion for an ASTEM career.

During the past academic year, nearly 50 experiences were offered to students, hosted by Iowa State University faculty and staff, as well as student clubs. Activities included a Science Cafe; the physics of Star Wars; the math of forensics and game theory; experiences in materials, computer and food science; a visit to the planetarium; plant and biology experiences; transportation and civil engineering activities; toxicology exploration; management information systems offerings; and more.
“My boys are involved in multiple activities for the family. Balancing these different activities has been a trait they have instilled in their twin sons Samuel and Kendell Jackson.

The young men both have numerous academic and athletic accolades including: National Honor Society membership, Academic Letter awards and college conference spots for track and football. The two have also earned the Science Bound scholarship and plan to attend Iowa State this fall.

Balancing these different activities has sometimes proven to be a challenge for the family. “My boys are involved in multiple extracurricular activities, so sometimes schedules would conflict. But this has also been a good life lesson. Sometimes choices do have to be made, even if they are tough choices,” Cory said.

Despite the challenges, the Jackson twins remain motivated. Every achievement encourages them to set even bigger goals for themselves. “Kendell was offered the opportunity as Preferred Walk-On for the ISU football team. Thanks to Science Bound, he’s able to pursue a STEM field while playing football at the NCAA Division 1 level, which he has always wanted to do,” Cory said.

She also shared some of the ways involvement in Science Bound aided her young people. “The summers they participated in the Learn and Earn program helped make the math classes they took the following year much easier for them to succeed in and understand. It really set the tone for their academic careers, and for the past two summers they served as Camp Counselors for the Science Center of Iowa. That was also a great opportunity; I saw a lot of growth in my boys’ personalities and maturity levels,” Cory said.

With Kendell and Samuel being their first to go off to college, the Jacksons appreciate the assistance Science Bound provides to aid in the transition, including guidance on identifying and applying for scholarships, information on the cost of attendance, assistance with the enrollment process and support for the other decisions that need to be made senior year. “The confidence that the Science Bound staff and mentors instill in the students they work with has contributed to our boys’ success,” said Cory.

The Jacksons advise other families to build interest in the program early by talking to their students about Science Bound and the opportunities it offers, discussing the commitment Science Bound requires and encouraging their students to work hard in the classroom and set goals to ensure success. They also advise parents to help students understand that it’s a big commitment, but that their hard work will pay off in more ways than one.

Cory encourages other parents to “stay involved with your kids’ lives, ask questions, hold them accountable without hand-holding them. Make your corner of the world a better place.”

The Jacksons hope that Kendell and Samuel will become kind and confident men. They want their sons to be role models in the community and to continuously seek out knowledge. The two appear to be well on their way. “One thing I’m very proud of about Science Bound is that it helps some students and families move socioeconomic classes in just 9 years. That’s a big deal,” she said. She adds that in the future, “I hope to see communities of color build generational legacies, large legacies of excellence – legacies of giving back.”

That genuine care for communities and students is what makes Science Bound a family, according to the program’s participants. Dr. Hargrave continues to embody that care by passing on give advice to students as she leaves the directorship. “There are certain things in life that are right and true all the time. It’s always a good idea to follow through. It’s always a good idea to excel academically. Do the basics, because on the other side of a difficult time, doing the basics will steady you,” she said. “The ability to keep going will carry you to and through the next level,” she continued. “It will carry you to your dreams. Stay true to what you know is right, even in your frustrations and disappointments.”

Dr. Hargrave is staying true to her dreams with a book in the works and a collaborative research project studying Science Bound at a macro level. “I’ll always be a part of Science Bound, it will always be in my heart,” she said.

For 11 years, Dr. Connie Hargrave served as the Science Bound director and continues to support students on campus as a full-time faculty member. As director, Dr. Hargrave worked closely with Science Bound families, students and staff. Her time as director not only left a lasting impact on the program, but on her as well. “It affirmed in me what I know exists in young people and families of color in terms of talent, passion and their ability to make a difference,” Dr. Hargrave said.

Science Bound is built on the expectation of excellence, but that’s not the only thing that makes it unique. “We walk out the vision of the program with students and families all the way through, and we have standards and expectations that we don’t lower or compromise. Our care for students and families isn’t grounded in what’s in it for us. It’s grounded in what’s in it for our community. It’s genuine; it’s backed by action, engagement, integrity and involvement,” Dr. Hargrave added.

She is proud of the program’s ability to empower and hopes that students and families continue to leverage the program to build long-term success.

“Defining Your Success Trajectory: Advice from Dr. Hargrave”

1. Design a complex strategy for pursuing your career goals.
2. Connect with other students and share your strategy.
3. Find a mentor within your discipline (professor, upper-level student).
4. Learn the lay of the land (what are all of the components: people, resources, skill sets, etc.).
5. Watch and learn from the mistakes others have made.
7. Make your career happen.

**Stay involved with your kids lives, ask questions, hold them accountable without hand-holding them. Make your corner of the world a better place.**
Corteva Agriscience™, (formerly DuPont Pioneer) has provided nearly $1.5 million in funding and in-kind support to Science Bound over the last 25 years, furthering the program’s scope and providing more resources to students, families, districts and teachers. This year the corporation pledged $125,000 for Science Bound’s Learn & Earn program.

The gift will provide $25,000 per year over the next five years to support the summer academic program in Des Moines. Learn & Earn is a four-week “boot-camp” that accelerates student math learning by previewing 60% of the math content students will master in the upcoming year while providing enriching agricultural education experiences.

Corteva Agriscience™, Agriculture Division of DowDuPont™’s gift will impact nearly 1000 students over the next five years, preparing them to excel in agriculture, science, technology, engineering and mathematics.