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(Neb.) - CSC students, faculty present science research

By: John Thayer Posted at: 05/01/2012 04:19 PM

Twelve Chadron State College students and two faculty members were presenters during the annual Nebraska Academy of Sciences meeting at Lincoln on April 20.

A group consisting of 19 CSC students and faculty members attended the academy's 122nd annual meeting, which was at Nebraska Wesleyan University.

The CSC students delivered 10 oral presentations and two posters.

Two of the students, Riley Machal of Gretna and Curtis Perriotte-Olson of Wallace, are working as Nebraska INBRE scholars and presented research from their respective projects. INBRE, which is funded through the Institutional Development Award Program Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence, is aimed at creating a biomedical research infrastructure that provides research opportunities for undergraduate students and serves as a pipeline for those students to continue into graduate research.

Machal is nearing completion of her studies of differential gene regulation of the *icaADBC* operon in *Staphylococcus epidermidis*. Perriotte-Olson's project addresses the effects of weight reduction on leptin sensitivity in diet-induced obese rats. Machal collaborated with Dr. Wendy Jamison, CSC assistant professor of science, on her project. Perriotte-Olson worked with Roger Reidelberger of the Veterans Affairs Medical Center at Omaha and will study one more year with Dr. Ann Buchmann, CSC associate professor of science.

Buchmann and Dr. Mike Leite, CSC science professor, also delivered presentations at the conference. Buchmann told about teaching microbiology laboratory as a research-based experience, and Leite discussed how northwest Nebraska lineaments correlate to faults in outcrop.

The CSC students who delivered oral presentations, and their topics:

R.J. Boylan, Gillette, Wyo., Mapping faults in soft-rock environments of the Pine Ridge region.

Zach Brown, Sterling, Colo., Effects of fire on fertility of soil in Chadron.

Ashley Chalupa, Grand Island, Neb., GAPDH gene isolation, extraction and sequencing of *Oenothera macrocarpa*.

Nisha Durand, Salisbury, Dominica, Antibiotics from native plants for use against Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*.

Adam Neumann, Fort Calhoun, Neb., Groundwater exchange along faults in northwest Nebraska.

T.J. Stunkel, Ansley, Neb., A possible seismic sand blow in the Pine Ridge near Chadron.

Abenezer Tadesse, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Nitrate levels in Chadron Creek.

Steve Welch, Chadron, Neb., Aster mineral spectral indices applied to geological mapping of the Chadron dome in Dawes County.

The students who delivered poster presentations:

Joe Reedy, Vale, S.D., Using a streambed temperature sensor array to study hyporheic flow in Chadron Creek.

Luke Wright, Hamlet, Neb., Isolation and identification of alkaline lake bacteria.

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