News Release - Logan, Utah, June 9, 2017 - The Department of Biological Engineering is hosting an eight week summer outreach program with nine students. Six students are from the USU's Blanding campus; while the other three are from the College of Southern Idaho. The students are funded through a National Science Foundation (NSF) grant. This program has worked in conjunction with the four week Native American Student Mentorship Program (NASMP). The students are mentored by Drs. David Britt and Anne Anderson.

Left to right: Dolphina, Justin, Tyler, Rolajuwon, Logan, Derrick, Aaron, Henok.

While working in the Department of Biological Engineering, the students have the opportunity to engage in hands-on research that evaluates how plants and bacteria cooperate to promote plant growth. Specifically, they examined what various environmental conditions have the most significant influence on the growth and health of the staple crop wheat.

The NASMP provides Native American students with the chance to familiarize themselves with USU's main campus while getting involved in academic research endeavors. The conclusion of the NASMP included a poster session where our students were able to showcase the research they conducted during the first portion of the program. The NSF funding allows increased time for the student group for bench work with a variety of novel instrumentation.

When asked their thoughts about the program the students said:

"One of my favorite parts was getting to work with the instruments. I liked getting to work with the Instron instrument and the scanning electron microscope." - Dolphina Kaye

"I liked how hands-on and laid back the program was; it didn't feel like a class or like showing up to work. Instead, we were able to conduct real research in a hands-on setting." - Aaron Beauford

"I really liked the human side of things and I'm actually considering changing my major to something in the biomedical field." - Justin Whatcott

News Coverage:
Herald Journal (Jun 6, 2017)
Aaron Beauford

Cassie Bahe

Derrick Kettering

Dolphina Kaye