

Honors Program

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Honors Program Students Represent Shippensburg University at National Conference

Three students from the Shippensburg University Honors Program participated in the 46th annual conference of the National Collegiate Honors Council, the national professional organization for Honors Programs and Colleges. The conference was held from October 19-23, 2011 in Phoenix, Arizona.

Honors juniors Miranda Aaron and Chelsea Meier served as student moderators at the conference, and Honors junior Holly Plank presented a research poster entitled "The Big Easy: Manipulating Mother Nature Comes with a Price." Plank's research explored the impact of Hurricane Katrina on New Orleans and developed solutions for ensuring the city's survival in the future. Although environmental manipulation caused many of the problems that New Orleans currently faces, Plank concluded that further manipulation of the Mississippi River may be the solution to save New Orleans, as the river needs to flow naturally in order to revitalize the wetlands environment that New Orleans is situated in.

"My experience presenting undergraduate research at the National Collegiate Honors Council Conference was unique because I had the opportunity to receive vital feedback from talented students and professors from universities around the country," said Plank, an earth and space science secondary education major from Camp Hill. "The conference has inspired me to intensify my research."

The Honors students also enjoyed exploring Phoenix, attending presentations by nationally-recognized speakers, and meeting with other Honors students and professors from across the nation. "My overall experience in Phoenix was wonderful! I learned so much from other Honors students and faculty. I already have plans to implement some of their ideas in our Honors Program, so that students can gain even more benefits from the program," said Meier, a middle-level education major from Bethlehem, PA, who also serves as the president of Shippensburg's Honors Student Organization. "The conference was a terrific opportunity to connect with great students from around the nation," added Aaron, an elementary education major from Eagleville, PA.

The conference was held at the Sheraton Phoenix Downtown Hotel and featured the theme, "Stewards of our Colliding Worlds: Rights, Wrongs, and Responsibilities." Nearly 2,000 students, professors, and administrators attended the five-day gathering to share ideas about Honors education.

The Honors Program at Shippensburg University provides an outstanding undergraduate experience that emphasizes scholarship, leadership, and civic engagement. The program involves 175 students who are selected based on their academic achievement, intellectual curiosity, and evidence of leadership and civic engagement. Students benefit from small classes; outstanding instruction; exciting research and study abroad opportunities, and special leadership, recreational, and cultural activities. For more information, visit <http://www.ship.edu/honors>.