Kieu Nguyen started in DSP as a Scholar, experimenting with art-related projects her freshman year. She is majoring in Fine Arts with minors in Business Administration and Leadership Studies. As an assistant, Kieu generates the necessary attention for DSP’s Public Relations events. Occasionally, Kieu will assist Anita with various projects such as the Target on Excellence Forum.

WHAT IS DSP?

What exactly is the Developing Scholars Program? DSP was launched with the intent to increase the number of historically underrepresented student scholars, such as first generation college students or ethnic minorities who graduate from college. With nearly 60 participants of various ethnic backgrounds, academic majors, and skills, DSP is growing in recognition and accomplishments. Now in its sixth year, DSP has tripled in number since its inception and continues to produce scholars who have achieved great success and have gone on to graduate schools and professional occupations.

What do students accomplish in DSP? First year scholars attend a seminar taught by Dr. Webb. DSP is similar to a part-time job. Scholars commit themselves to research six to ten hours weekly, signing timesheets, and attending monthly meetings. They are paid every two weeks for their participation.

Through the Developing Scholars Program, scholars are given the rare opportunity to work with professors who are experts in their field of research. Scholars are provided opportunities for networking, studying abroad, and applying for prominent and nationally competitive scholarships. As students progress through the program, DSP becomes their K-State family, providing not only a wealth of knowledge and experience but a welcoming and comfortable place to call home.

SNAPSHOTS OF US...

Anita Cortez is one of the original founders of DSP. With her Bachelor’s degree from K-State and Masters in English from the University of Wyoming, Anita has been working with students at K-State forever! (Well, only since our current scholars were born.) Anita is the “go to” person for problem solving, sharing accomplishments, and showing off puppies and artwork. She is DSP’s number one campus advocate, continually encouraging students to rise above the norm and show off their intellectual abilities. In 2001, Anita won the Commerce Bank Presidential Faculty Award for Distinguished Services to Minority Students.

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Anita Cortez Administrative Director

Syndey Samplenton shares her project findings with fellow scholars.

Dwight Alexander updates Anita on academics and personal achievements.

Dr. Farrell Webb Faculty Director

Anita Cortez

Kieu Nguyen student assistant

Darcy Easley graduate assistant

Darcy Easley came to K-State for graduate studies in Marriage and Family Therapy after receiving her undergraduate degree from the University of Northern Iowa. She has been working with DSP for two years. Darcy interacts directly with students and helps Anita coordinate special events.
Scholars Get Recognized

Hill’s Pet Nutrition reception

The “Recognition Reception of the Hills Pet Nutrition - DSP Collaborative” was hosted by the College of Veterinary Medicine on October 5. This event was held to recognize the Developing Scholars supported by the Pathways to Opportunity program in association with Hill’s Pet Nutrition. Along with students who are in the Pre-Veterinary tract, Biology, or Pre-Health areas, administrators present included Provost Nelligan, Provost Emeritus Coffman, Dean Richardson, and others from the College of Veterinary Medicine. These students included continuing scholars (Cameron Anderson and Matt Hobson), incoming scholars (Velma Gill, Bobby Gomez, Michelle Hubin, Matt Martinez, Nakayla Robbs and Ali Whisler), and Biology majors (Charlie Dao, Samuel Ornelas, Dominique Rogers, and Jannet Wright). The scholars were presented to the Hill’s Pet Nutrition representatives and had the opportunity to network with professionals of this renowned company.

What’s on your mind?

you ask…we answer

? What are the benefits of being a member of DSP?
Students conduct research that is often only available to graduate students. They gain knowledge, skills, and practical experience that enhance their understanding of what happens in the classroom. Scholars will gain recognition and respect from professionals throughout campus. DSP introduces scholars to top university and national scholarships while preparing them for graduate and professional occupations. Through their research and faculty mentor relationships, scholars have the opportunity to get their work published and even present at national conventions and/or competitions.

? Is there a monetary award for being in DSP?
Students are required to conduct 6-10 hours of research per week. Therefore, it is like working a part-time job in their field. Incoming scholars receive a $1,000 stipend per semester, and returning scholars receive a $1,250 stipend per semester. Students are paid every two weeks.

? How long are students in DSP?
Students are admitted to the program as early as their freshman year and can be in the program for up to three years.

? What is the faculty mentor’s role with the students?
The mentor oversees the research while providing professional mentoring in their area of expertise. Students maintain close relationships with them for guidance. Faculty also write reference letters for graduate schools and jobs.

e-mail your questions to us! cortez@ksu.edu

Acclimation to Research

what really goes on in seminar

DSP seminar is a one credit hour course that all first year scholars are required to attend. Held every Monday afternoon, seminar is a place for students to become acclimated to the university, college life and the language of research. The open discussions are designed to encourage students to think at a higher level of learning.

Dr. Webb stresses the importance of learning to utilize the library and take advantage of its resources. To familiarize students with the library and its databases, Dr. Webb often designs assignments that require them to do challenging searches and practice research methods.

Second semester shifts the focus to DSP’s Poster Presentations. Scholars learn how to write an abstract for their presentation, present their research in a professional manner, and how to field questions. Most significantly, scholars are learning to conduct themselves professionally. They will present the culmination of their research on April 23 at 2pm in the Hemisphere Room of Hale Library at K-State. Mark your calendars now!

Come see us!

personal invitation for family & friends

Kinh chào! Bienvenidos! Welcome!
The Developing Scholars staff and students would like to extend a personal invitation to family and friends to attend our spring event. It is the encouragement and faith that families provide which keeps our students strong even through the hard times. Come share in their achievements!

April 23, 2006 Poster Presentations Hale Library Hemisphere Room (5th floor) 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

www.ksu.edu/scholars