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2021 BIOTECHNOLOGY ONLINE SUMMER WORKSHOP

From June 21 – 25, 2021 Los Angeles Mission College (LAMC), Life Sciences department held a Biotechnology Online Summer Workshop targeted towards high school students which gave an overview about Biotechnology and what it entails. There was a total for 24 participants from several high schools such as Birmingham, Crescenta Valley, Granada, John f. Kennedy, Magnolia Science Academy, Reseda, and Vaughn. Out of the 24 participants, 20 of them attended every session. The workshop consisted of a 30-minute lecture which followed a session of laboratory activities using Labster. On the last day of the workshop, students did a presentation on topics they learned about throughout the week.

The content discussed during the lecture catered perfectly towards the high school students. The workshop covered the topics such as Careers in Biotechnology along with basic techniques of Microscopy, Microbial identification, Bacterial Transformation, Micro pipetting, Lab and Biosafety and the techniques like PCR, ELISA and Gram staining. Dr. Arora, the biotechnology faculty at LAMC, ensured the students would understand the topics being discussed which encouraged students to ask questions. Regardless of the workshop being online, the level of student participation and engagement really gave an idea of how interested and invested the students were to learn the material being taught in the Workshop.

The Labster portion of the workshop was much anticipated by the high school students. A student who participated in the workshop, mentioned "I enjoyed the lab simulations because it felt like she was playing a video game and learning at the same time. I just loved this workshop and am no longer scared of Biotechnology".

Overall, the 2021 Biotechnology Online Summer Workshop was a great way to learn about the field and what it entails. High school students can benefit immensely from taking advantage of the Biotechnology program available at LAMC. It will enhance their college applications and equip them with skills they will benefit from in their academic and professional careers.

