

MINI SYMPOSIUM 2022

STEM, Health, and Fitness: From Education to Employment

March 18, 2022

On Friday, March 18th, 2022, the Life Science Department at Los Angeles Mission College held its 2nd annual STEM, Health, and Fitness: From Education to Employment Mini Symposium. The event aims to educate and offer information in STEM and Health, and various careers within these fields. Over 200 high school and college students, and community members attended the event. The event offered all attendees the Opportunity to hear the experience and journeys of several Dedicated speakers working in multiple fields such as Nursing, Biotechnology, Biochemistry, and Athletics.

Among the speakers was former LAMC graduate Odet Alfaro, who earned her AS in Biotechnology. She was able to speak on the impact the program had on her and her current position as a Biomanufacturing associate at Grifols Biological. Taryn Fowlds, a Clinical Nurse at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, shared her experience as an LAMC student and crediting her mentorship at LAMC for helping her prepare for a career as an RN. Jesus Iniguez, one of LAMC's own professors and also an LAMC graduate, spoke eagerly about the opportunities available to students that wish to pursue a career in Biochemistry. He shared his experience of his pursuit to earning a PhD, and his journey as an LAMC student. Tresha San-Martin, an Athletic Trainer, at LAMC, spoke to the attendees about her journey as a trainer, and as a kinesiology professor at LAMC. Lastly, Mario Solaris, an operating manager at Pharmavite, motivated attendees about the duties he performed in the field of pharmaceutical and nutraceutical industries.

Towards the end, attendees had the opportunity to visit several event tables for networking possibilities, and speak to several LAMC support programs. They were also able to have one on one interactions with the speakers, and address any additional questions they may have. Many of the attendees looked excited and eager about their careers of interest and motivated to continue their education. The post-event survey results showed that the attendees benefited greatly. In response to "What elements of the STEM, Health, Fitness: Mini Symposium were most valuable to your learning?" most attendees responded that they enjoyed how the speakers spoke about their daily lives as professionals. They also mentioned how they enjoyed the conversation they had with the speakers and would like to connect further. Overall, the event was able to offer guidance, opportunity, motivation, and insight to what fields like STEM and Health have to offer.

