

# Lock Haven University

## Official Release

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### Nano and YOU...Nanoscience opportunities

#### LHU hosts program on Nanoscience for high school students

High school students throughout the state are invited to learn more about the many doors of opportunity open to them by studying nanotechnology. Lock Haven University will host its 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Nanoscience Awareness Day on Monday evening, October 3 from 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. in Ulmer Hall 232 (Planetarium).

Nanotechnology, the science of designing and constructing devices and materials on a very small scale, can open new career opportunities for students in the sciences. Nanotechnology alumni will present what they are doing now and how they have benefited by participating in nanotechnology programs. Some of LHU's graduates who are in M.S. and Ph.D. programs from Engineering to Neuroscience or in industry are expected to make presentations. Participating high school students will have the opportunity to talk with LHU nano alumni and ask questions about the program.

Mr. Terry Kuzma from Penn State University will speak on behalf of the Nanofabrication, Manufacturing & Technology (NMT) Capstone and the Nanotechnology Applications and Career Knowledge (NACK) center.

LHU nano alumni who will be present include Dr. Justin Ingram, BS in Biology/Chemistry & AAS in Nanotechnology 2005, PhD in Neuroscience from PSU 2011 and currently a postdoctoral student at Penn State; Nick Drayer, BS in Biology/Chemistry and Minor in Nanotechnology 2009, now a medical school student at Commonwealth Medical College; Christopher Grablutz, BS in Applied Physics-Nanotechnology 2011, employed with a renewable energy company in New Jersey as a project engineer; and Stephen Swiontek, BS in Applied Physics-Nanotechnology 2010, PhD in Engineering Sciences at PSU, listed on a patent with Dr. Marian Tzolov, LHU associate professor of Physics.

The nanoscience program at Lock Haven University is based in the sciences that include Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Geology, Health Sciences, pre-engineering, pre-med, and other Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM) disciplines). Dr. Anura Goonewardene, Director of LHU's Nanotechnology program, says "Nanoscience is the cutting edge for interdisciplinary sciences. No matter what branch of science a student pursues, whether it's biology or chemistry or physics or any other branch, nanotechnology has tremendous applications." In addition, students with unmet need at LHU who study nanotechnology and science in conjunction with the LHU Honors program are eligible for a four year Nanoscience Scholarship funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF), subject to funding.

Lock Haven University is at the forefront in nanotechnology undergraduate education. At LHU, Nanotechnology is embedded in all its STEM B.S. programs and provides unique opportunities for undergraduates to do cutting edge research in the field. An average of 10 LHU students each year presents their research at national conferences. Our data indicates that 76% of our students participate in research with faculty, an unheard of rate for most universities. LHU also places some of its outstanding juniors at national research universities across the nation for summer research internships that are fully funded; last year 5 LHU students were placed in fully funded research internships. Some of these students will be on hand to talk about the "perks" of these programs.

In addition, the LHU nanotechnology program has a graduate school placement rate of over 50%. Last spring five LHU nano graduates were admitted to Ph.D., M.S., and M.D. programs across the country.

These successes have been recognized by the National Science Foundation through its multiple funding awards to the program since 2008. To date, the NSF has given the LHU nano program grants of over \$700,000. The program has been particularly successful in attracting first generation college students (parents have not attended college) who are part of the underrepresented students in STEM fields. LHU science faculty expect the program's 2012-16 grant from NSF to be renewed for next year (\$500,000 +) and if it is, then outstanding students entering LHU in fall 2012 will be eligible to receive scholarships of up to \$10,000 year, depending on their unmet need, for the four years they will take to graduate from the nano program.

Lock Haven University is a member of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE), the largest provider of higher education in the commonwealth. Its 14 universities offer more than 250 degree and certificate programs in more than 120 areas of study. Nearly 405,000 system alumni live and work in Pennsylvania.

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