

WARTBURG IINSPIRE



2022-2023

ACADEMIC YEAR HIGHLIGHTS

20 IINSpire student attendees
at 6 professional conferences

8 mentors met monthly for
professional development,
each supporting 1-2 mentees
of their own

5 social events hosted with
more planned for this year

1 professional development
speaker brought to campus

20 t-shirts distributed

4 pans of brownies eaten



Dr. Golay, Jennifer '23, Hidaly '23,
Pedro '24, and Robby '24 at the SACNAS
conference in Puerto Rico this October.

What is IINSpire?

IINSpire is an NSF-supported regional alliance committed to broadening the participation of US students from racial and ethnic groups traditionally underrepresented in the STEM fields. As part of this alliance Wartburg is committed to providing an inclusive and supportive learning environment that challenges and nurtures students for meaningful lives in the STEM professions. Each semester we provide various opportunities for professional development, socializing, and academic support. Currently there are approximately 39 eligible students at Wartburg, representing 11 majors.

Students engaged with the professional scientific community via participation at conferences around the US

This year, 20 student attendees traveled to professional conferences supported by IINSpire funds accompanied by faculty and staff. Seven of these students presented their research – four on research they conducted at Wartburg and three on their research off-campus over the summer. You can read about some of these presentations at the links below. The students all reported being exhausted, as is usually the case at conferences, but also inspired by the research that they saw, as well as the individuals they saw presenting the research. They learned more about preparation for graduate school and other career paths, and they networked with students and faculty from other institutions.

[Midbrains](#) – Eau Claire, WI – Oct 22

[SACNAS](#) (Society for the Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science) – San Juan, Puerto Rico – Oct 26-29

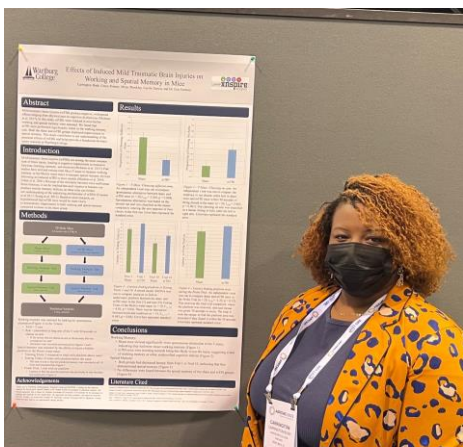
[ABRCMS](#) (Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minoritized Scientists) – Anaheim, CA – Nov 9-12

[AfroTech](#) – Austin, TX – Nov 1-5

[IINSpire LSAMP Conference](#) – Iowa City, IA – Feb 10-11

[NCUR](#) (National Council on Undergraduate Research) – Eau Claire, WI – Apr 13-15

“Getting to hear the success stories of the other students and professionals who overcame these same hurdles I am facing showed me that it is possible to succeed.” – Joys '23



Carrington '23 was one of two neuroscience majors who presented their research at this year's ABRCMS conference in Anaheim, CA.

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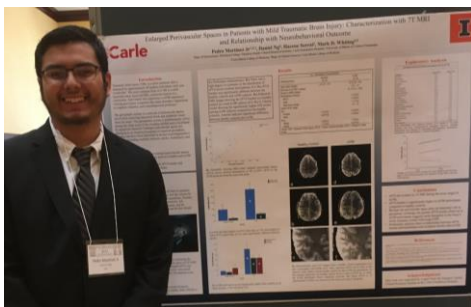
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<https://www.wartburg.edu/iinspire/>



Pedro '24 presented at the MidBrains neuroscience conference this October. He presented his summer project from RCEU (Research and Clinical Experience for Undergraduates) at the University of Illinois Carle College of Medicine.

Dr. Alonzo Kelly challenged students to be thoughtful leaders

On November 8, IINspire hosted Dr. Alonzo Kelly on campus for a professional development opportunity for students entitled *The Art of Asking Better Questions: How the Right Questions Lead to More Efficient and Effective Outcomes*. Students had the opportunity to engage in conversation with Dr. Kelly about thinking critically as leaders and asking questions that promote dialogue.

Mentors help underclassmen adjust to Wartburg

IINspire mentors are more senior students who are challenged to develop skills of leadership and community engagement. The mentors work together with professors and their peers to help organize and improve upon the IINspire community as a whole. They learn to work with others towards common goals and are given the liberty to use their passion and unique creativity to supercharge the IINspire social events and activities. Mentors are paired with first-year students with the goal of building up confidence and creating a connection with experienced students in STEM.

Tutoring helps with study skills, as well as course material

IINspire funds pay for tutors for eligible students in their science courses. Tutors can be IINspire students or majority students, and are chosen based on their ability to clearly communicate material for the relevant class, as well as provide study tips and encouragement. This past semester, IINspire students took advantage of this opportunity in a range of courses across STEM. Students interested in tutoring should request through this link:

<https://forms.office.com/r/myZYWpAXZ6>

Building community

This fall IINspire hosted two social events so that students and faculty could get to know one another better. The first party was a potluck supper on September 30 at Dr. Coleman's house. Twelve students, 12 faculty and their families, and the Dean of Faculty gathered for a few hours of games, conversation, pets, and good food. A few weeks later around midterms students gathered for brownies, hot cider, and de-stressing. Winter semester socials included bowling, more brownies, and a planned end-of-year picnic.

