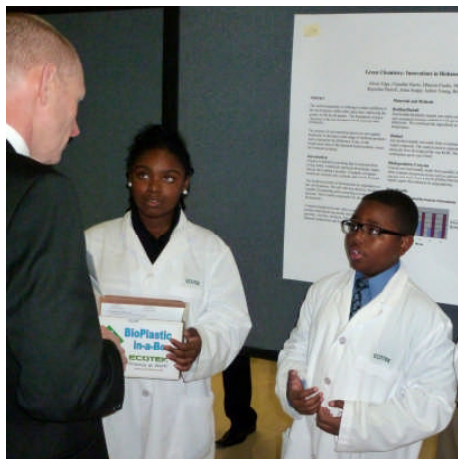


ECOTEK Scientists Take Center Stage at Green Chemistry Conference



Raynisha and Miles discussing biofilms

The words *Goin' Green* dot the headlines of newspapers and are plastered on the front cover of magazines. Companies, large and small, are working feverishly to reduce global warming and manufacture products that can increase landfill avoidance and decrease pollution. The challenge for today's businesses is finding scientists that have the right mix of skills and knowledge to grow the green economy.

On Friday, October 25, four Ecotek student scientists- Miles Frierson (Derby Middle School), Raynisha Pannell (George Crockett Academy), Evan Morton and Daniel Horton (Detroit Edison PSA, a National Green Ribbon School), presented their research poster entitled *Green Chemistry: Innovations in Biobased Products* to attendees at the 2012 Michigan Green Chemistry and Engineering Conference.

The conference was organized by Wayne State University and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. The event was attended by senior executives from a variety of companies, such as Dow Chemical, Waste Management, Ford Motor Company, Herman Miller and PVS Chemical.

The students dazzled conference attendees with their knowledge of green chemistry concepts. Miles and Raynisha discussed and demonstrated the elasticity and tensile strength properties of biofilm, while Daniel and Evan showcased their knowledge of solid biofuel. During the conference the students also spoke with corporate leaders about career opportunities in green chemistry.



Evan and Daniel discussing biopellets

Before attending the conference the students spent time after school and on the weekends at Ecotek Lab doing hands-on experiments. This experience gave them confidence; improved their knowledge base and gave them credibility. Green chemistry is about making products that are useful, affordable and environmentally friendly. Hands-on work and participation in events like the Michigan Green Chemistry and Engineering Conference provides student scientists with an outlet to showcase their talents and network with working professionals. Based on the feedback received at the conference, Raynisha, Evan, Daniel and Miles have a bright future ahead of them and will have a hand in the growth of the green economy.

About the Ecotek Science Program

Ecotek is a science research lab program for young inventors and researchers in grades 5 thru 12. Student scientists work on projects aligned with the issues being addressed by world leaders at the United Nations. To learn more about Ecotek Lab go to <http://www.ecotek-us.com>

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