On Saturday October 25th, 2014 Toni Pelligrino and Saheik Cisse traveled to Rachel Carson High School for Coastal Studies on Coney Island to present at the New York State Marine Education Association Conference. The students worked together to share the research they helped conduct during the Step Up To STEM Summer Program. Toni and Saheik’s research focused on learning more about the water quality of two different sites on the Hudson River, one upstream and one downstream. Along with the help of Mercy College professor Brunella Taddeo and BMCC professor Kibrewossen Tesfagiorgis the students learned to test for water quality measures such as pH, turbidity, nitrites and fecal Coliform contamination. Toni and Saheik explained that a better understanding of these types of water quality parameters could help people to better interpret reports on water quality during disasters such as Hurricane Sandy. While at the NYSMEA conference Toni and Saheik were able to hear about other student’s research projects and learn more about restoring, managing and monitoring coastal resources.
Above, Saheik Cisse and Toni Pelligrino presented their research that they conducted during the Step Up to STEM Summer Program. They presented on the water quality of two different studies on the Hudson River, one upstream and one downstream.

**Mercy College Students Meet Watson at IBM**

On October 8, 2014, Mercy College’s Collegiate Science & Technology Entry Program (CSTEP) and Title V Step Up To STEM took students to IBM in Yorktown, New York to meet Watson. Watson is IBM’s showcase “computer” that won Jeopardy back in 2011. The victory of IBM Watson was the first time a machine competed against humans on Jeopardy.

Students had the opportunity to meet Watson and some of the team members that created him. Along with learning about Watson, Mercy students also learned about some of the research IBM staffers are currently working on, and about their career paths to IBM.

Mercy College Senior Kierra Taylor said: “I am glad I seized the opportunity to go IBM! I learned so much about research and the company – it is a trip I will never forget.”
First mentor-mentee mixer of the Fall 2014 semester hosted by Jaclyn Cooke, STEM PACT Manager. This was a great opportunity for the mentors and mentees to meet, enjoy a nice lunch together, and participate in several team building activities.

STEM Career Day of 2014 was a huge success. Jaclyn Cooke, Stem PACT Manager, and Alyssia Green, Assistant Director of CSTEP, hosted an event where students can learn about various career options within the STEM fields at Mercy College. Students had the opportunity to meet STEM related professionals, graduate students in STEM programs, local employers with STEM job opportunities, and attended exciting, interactive workshops. The day started off with an introduction from Dr. Toglia, Dean of the School of Health & Natural Sciences.
Following her, the President of Mercy College, Tim Hall, graced the students with his wisdom for entering STEM career fields. The featured speaker for the morning is a Columbia University professor, Dana March, PhD MPH, themed her discussion, "**STEM is all around you, make the connection.**"

Following the morning festivities, students were given the opportunity to attend several workshops. Below are several pictures taken from the different breakout sessions.

Breakout sessions where the students had the opportunity to discover exercise science.
Breakout sessions where the students had the opportunity to discover exercise science.

Alberto Manzi, left is interpreting the electrooculogram (EOG) tracing from the previous exercise of recording eye movement through the use of the electrodes.

Breakout session with Alberto Manzi. The participant, Kevonne Fields, Grant Facilitator, right, is hooked up to electrodes to monitor eye movement.
After the breakout sessions, the students were enlightened with a Panel Discussion. The Panel consisted of:

**Dr. Ching–Hua Chen** – User Experience Researcher from IBM Watson Group

**Robert Monteleone** – STEM peer mentor and Cyber Security Grad student, Mercy College

**Dr. Kimberly Rapoza** – Program Director, McNair Scholars Program and Associate Professor of Psychology, Mercy College

**Dr. Nicole Alessandri-Haber** – Senior Staff Scientist Pain, Addiction, and Neurology, Target Discovery–Regeneron Pharmaceuticals

**Kofi Amoako** – Product Technical Director/Formulation Chemist, Urnex Brands, Inc

More STEM DAY pics from our breakout sessions, booths and stimulating panel discussion with STEM professionals!