Collaborations with The National Hispanic University

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The Center for Probing the Nanoscale has a strong history of partnership with the National Hispanic University (NHU) and the Latino College Preparatory Academy (LCPA) that began through the Research Experience for Teachers (RET) program. CPN Investigators hosted professor William Cruz from NHU and Dixie Sinkovitz and Alfonso Garcia from LCPA. This summer research experience initiated a broader collaboration between the CPN, NHU and LCPA that has resulted in a creative cross-fertilization of ideas for hands-on nanoscience learning modules and ways to engage under-represented students in science.

The National Hispanic University (NHU) is an accredited institution in San Jose that provides a multicultural educational experience to a diverse array of community members, including latinos and other minorities. The Latino College Preparatory Academy (LCPA) is a charter high school on the NHU campus that was established to provide an alternative learning environment for students who do not do well in traditional high schools because of language differences.

Collaborations in 2007-2008 included:
• Summer Institute for Middle School Teachers: Alfonso Garcia of LCPA participated in the institute and generated ideas for an after-school mentorship program involving CPN, LCPA and NHU.

• Nanotechnology workshop for NHU students: NHU students learned about nanoscience from CPN graduate students and worked on activities they could use to mentor LCPA students in an after-school science program.

• Video Caption Translation: Captions of on-line videos of the course Probing the Nanoscale will be translated by NHU students into Spanish to reach a broader audience.

• LCPA Science Fair: Over one hundred LCPA students participated in a science fair that highlighted the results of quarter-long research projects. CPN scientists judged the poster competition and encouraged students to engage in research.

NHU Students work with a CPN Fellow at a nanoscience workshop. The NHU students plan to use their knowledge to mentor LCPA students in an after-school science program.

Over one hundred LCPA Students displayed their research results at the annual Science Fair.