

For Immediate Release

June 21, 2018

From: Apis Creative, in cooperation with The University of Alabama and West Virginia University

www.apiscreative.com

Exporting WV Innovation: HSTA Youth Development Program to Enjoy Full-Scale Replication in Alabama

June 21, 2021, Morgantown, WV -- [The University of Alabama Capstone College of Nursing](#) and its subawardees, Health Sciences and Technology Academy (HSTA) replication incubator [Apis Creative](#) and [West Virginia University's Benjamin M. Statler College of Engineering and Mineral Resources](#), have received a \$1.2 million [Science Education Partnership Award](#) (SEPA) from the [National Institute of General Medical Sciences](#) of the [National Institutes of Health](#). UA, WVU, and Apis will use these funds over the next five years to create the first full-scale HSTA-based program outside the state.

WV HSTA is a mentoring program housed at WVU that helps participating students enter and succeed in STEM-based undergraduate and graduate degree programs. The HSTA-Alabama project will test the potential to provide children outside the state with the unmatched benefits West Virginia youth enjoy through our homegrown program. Like WV HSTA, which also receives SEPA funding, [HSTA-AL](#) will serve rural, underserved, economically challenged, primarily African American high schoolers.

Robin Bartlett, associate dean for research at the University of Alabama Capstone College of Nursing, will lead the team in establishing the nursing-focused pilot program in Alabama's Hale and Pickens counties.

In speaking to the importance of HSTA-AL, Bartlett said, "Our state is in dire need of more nurses, particularly nurse scientists, nurse faculty, and registered nurses from rural areas and diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds. To change this dynamic, we must encourage students from underrepresented populations to enter the field of nursing before they graduate from high school. We will build on WV HSTA's successes, opening Alabama high school students up to the possibilities of a biomedical career, especially a career in nursing."

Apis Creative has partnered with WVU to replicate HSTA in areas of the country where young people face economic and social challenges to entering and succeeding in higher education, particularly in healthcare and other STEM fields. WVU Statler College and Apis are subawardees on the HSTA-AL project. Apis' HSTA Hatch division will provide training and consulting services under the guidance of owner and president Bethany Hornbeck and former HSTA director Ann Chester. Alan McKendall, associate professor in the Department of Industrial and Management Systems Engineering in the WVU Statler College, will lead the research and evaluation portion of the project. He will be assisted by Sherron McKendall, senior research associate of WV HSTA.

- MORE -

HSTA Director Cathy Morton commented, “WV HSTA is especially good at helping West Virginia youth dream big and go into STEM professions. This is because our communities, teachers, and schools lead our universities in helping that happen. We are excited to work with Apis Creative in sharing the program with UA to generate wonderful outcomes in Alabama.”

“HSTA is a unique and highly successful program, developed by West Virginians, for West Virginians,” added Hornbeck. “Apis is honored to work with UA and WVU in crafting an effort that exports this West Virginia innovation to the nation. We are working hard to ensure that Alabama’s students—and all the students our future partners serve—realize the same benefits of achievement, friends, and fun HSTA students enjoy at home.”

Apis’ HSTA Hatch division was established to support replication of the HSTA program through partnerships with land-grant universities and local and national youth development programs. HSTA Hatch is seeking additional partners with which to pursue SEPA and other grant and foundational funding.

Of the 3,000 young people who have graduated from WV HSTA, 99% have gone on to college, 89% have obtained a college degree, 84% continue to live and work in West Virginia, and they earn, on average, \$30,000 more per year than their highest-earning parent. HSTA-AL, WV HSTA, WVU, and HSTA Hatch hope to see the same success in Alabama in the next five years.

Media Contacts:

Bethany Hornbeck

President

Apis Creative

844.234.2899, Ext. 701 (Office)

412-680-8600 (Cellular)

Wendy Holdren

Senior Communications Specialist

WVU Health Sciences

304-203-9528; wendy.holdren@hsc.wvu.edu

Robin Bartlett

Associate Dean for Research

The University of Alabama Capstone College of Nursing

205-348-8452; trbartlett@ua.edu

About Apis Creative

Apis is a collective of freelance and small-business creatives working to serve for-profit, non-profit, government, and professional organizations. Our platform is a means for making the modern gig economy work for all of us. To learn more, visit www.apiscreative.com.

###