FOSTERING COLLABORATION BETWEEN MISSISSIPPI AND BELIZE RESEARCH AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

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Abstract: Belize is a tropical, multicultural country in Central America. In May 2010, a team of administrators, faculty, research associates and students from Jackson State University and Mississippi State University traveled to Belize. The Mississippi National Science Foundation EPSCoR International Exchange Program sponsored the trip and the team was from Jackson State University and Mississippi State University. The visit included meetings at the University of Belize, Belmopan; the Central Medical Lab, Belize City; the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital, Belize City; Belize Agricultural Health Authority, Belize City and the Citrus Research and Education Institute, Dangriga. The trip provided an opportunity to discuss potential education and research collaborations. Some areas identified include geographical information systems for monitoring fruit flies; faculty and student training exchange, infusion of bioinformatics into the curriculum at University of Belize and joint training workshops. Follow-up visits are planned to build on the areas of collaboration especially providing Mississippi students with diverse venues for international research and education experiences.

Keywords: Belize, International Collaboration, Mississippi

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