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Sophia Jang (sophia.jang@ttu.edu), Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX 79409-1042, **Nancy McIntyre** (nancy.mcintyre@ttu.edu), Department of Biological Sciences, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX 79409, and **G. Brock Williams*** (brock.williams@ttu.edu), Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX 79409-1042. *Capturing the Imagination of Freshmen and Sophomore Math and Biology Majors Through Research Experiences.*

We will describe our NSF-sponsored PRISM program which seeks to improve retention of math and biology majors by “getting them hooked” on research from the very beginning of their college experience. Freshmen take a special section of Biological Calculus followed by a semester of Computational Biology. Students in their sophomore year spend 10-15 each week conducting biomath research with TTU faculty.

All of our PRISM scholars participate in an intensive summer research camp. We also invite 6-8 promising high school seniors to the camp. This has served to strengthen our connection to area high schools and broaden the pipeline for future math and biology majors.

We will also discuss the students’ research projects, and our mentoring practices as informed by previous programs. (Received September 25, 2012)