

## Students Spend Summer Vacation as LA BioMed Researchers

### *Honda Donation Helps Give High School Grads Hands-On Experience*

Fourteen outstanding high school students are spending their summer vacations getting hands-on experience in LA BioMed's labs through the Institute's Summer Fellowship Program.

Thanks to a generous gift from the American Honda Motor Co., Inc., this unique program gives a select group of LA high school students the opportunity to participate in the ground-breaking research underway at LA BioMed.

Each student was assigned to work with one of LA BioMed's dedicated investigators. The students also are attending scientific presentations, hospital rounds, tours and other events on campus. In August, at the annual culmination ceremony, they will provide poster presentations of the research they conducted at LA BioMed.

The American Honda Motor Co., which has a history of providing grants to organizations that offer unique approaches to teaching and developing youth, pledged \$75,000 to help fund the program over three years, a sponsorship that funds 10 students per year in the Summer Fellowship Program. Watson Land Co. and the Carson-Dominguez Rotary Club also are sponsoring the fellowship program.

"We are extremely grateful to American Honda for this very generous gift and its strong support for this wonderful learning experience for the outstanding young people in LA BioMed's Summer Fellowship Program," said LA BioMed President and CEO Carole Wagner Vallianos, Esq. "We also are grateful to the Watson Land Co. and the Carson-Dominguez Rotary Club for supporting the fellowship program and LA BioMed. Our sponsors are strong partners in helping us develop the leaders of tomorrow through training today."

Established in 1978, LA BioMed's Summer Fellowship Program has graduated more than 300 students. More than 90 high school valedictorians and four Presidential (White House) Scholars have participated in the program.

Many of the former interns went onto medical school, and some have even returned as post-graduate physicians or fellows at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center. One is now a professor in the Department of Surgery at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center and has served as a mentor in the program.

"All of us at the American Honda Motor Co. are very proud to be able to help such exceptional young men and women advance in knowledge and in understanding of scientific research," said Stephan Morikawa, American Honda Motor Co. assistant vice president for corporate community relations. "LA BioMed is an excellent training ground and provider of health services that have improved the lives and opportunities of young people and their families throughout the Los Angeles region. We are proud to partner with LA BioMed as it develops and hones the skills of the young men and women who will lead the way to future discoveries."

