



## **Project SSTRIDE**

Project SSTRIDE (Science Students Together Reaching Instructional Diversity & Excellence) was instituted in the summer of 1994 as an outreach program within the Program in Medical Sciences at Florida State University (FSU), now the FSU College of Medicine. The SSTRIDE mission is to identify students who have a genuine interest in pursuing a career in science, engineering, mathematics, health or medicine and to give those students the support services important for them to develop the sense of responsibility, focus and motivation necessary for success in their chosen fields.

### **Middle and High School Level**

SSTRIDE provides daily in-school instruction, an after-school tutoring program and extracurricular activities for both middle and high school students. The in-school instruction at the middle school level is offered as an elective course, taught by selected science teachers at each of the targeted schools in Leon, Gadsden, Madison, Okaloosa, Orange and Walton counties. The high school component in Leon County is an after-school tutorial/enrichment program, housed at the SSTRIDE Learning Center on FSU's campus. The high school components of Madison, Okaloosa and Gadsden counties are in-school enrichment and after-school tutorial programs housed in their respective schools. Leon County high school students are transported via the SSTRIDE van four days a week (Monday through Thursday) to FSU, where they receive tutoring and mentoring assistance in all academic subjects. All high school students also participate in career shadowing field trips and receive assistance in preparing for the SAT or ACT test. Both middle and high school programs include student recognition, awards banquets and monthly parent meetings. The programs also track student progress from middle school through the completion of a professional degree program in a science or health career field. Graduate students from FSU and undergraduate premedical students from Florida State and Florida A&M universities serve as teaching assistants, tutors and mentors for both middle and high school programs.

### **Summer SSTRIDE Institute**

The Summer SSTRIDE Institute (SSI) at the FSU College of Medicine provides a one-week residential summer experience for rising high school junior and senior SSTRIDE participants, private payers and students in underserved areas near our regional campuses. The students are offered shadowing experiences as well as the opportunity to interact with faculty and solidify their interests in a medical career.

### **College and Post-Baccalaureate Level**

At the college level, in addition to pre-med/pre-health academic advising, SSTRIDE students are also provided with academic intervention services. The College of Medicine's Director of Outreach and Premedical Advisor also serves as the faculty advisor to the Multicultural Association of Pre-health Students (MAPS), a student organization on the FSU campus, and the Undergraduate SSTRIDE Program. Through these efforts, students are offered extensive academic support, volunteer clinical opportunities and professional development workshops. Students are assessed each semester and provided the intervention needed to assist them in their overall academic success. Bridge, the post-baccalaureate program, is designed to expand the pool of successful medical school applicants from medically underserved, rural and inner-city communities. These students are selected from the regular FSU College of Medicine admissions cycle. This three-semester experience allows students to demonstrate growth and improvement in both academic and health-care settings. Information on these outreach programs is available through the advising office, during FSU Preview sessions, fall and spring orientation sessions and via the FSU COM website at:

<http://med.fsu.edu/index.cfm?page=AdvisingOutreach.home>.