



Students distinguishing themselves in research internships. From left are Mercer County Community College professor of biology Diane Hilker, Medical Diagnostic Laboratories research associate Terry Paulish, MDL assistant director David Hilbert (back), research intern Noah Ouslander, chemistry professor Helen Tanzini, research intern Meihua Liu and college president Jianping Wang.

Interns excel at science research

In January, two Mercer County Community College science students immersed themselves in a potentially career-shaping experience as research interns at Medical Diagnostic Laboratories, a subsidiary of Genesis of Biotechnology Group, based in Hamilton.

The students, Meihua Liu of Princeton and Noah Ouslander of Pennington, shared the findings of their work in front of a packed house of MCCC faculty members and fellow students in February.

Meihua investigated "Trichomonas Vaginalis Population Subtyping: Using Real-time qPCR and Pyrosequencing" under the guidance of Dr. David Hilbert, MDL's assistant director.

Noah explored "NDM-1

Bacteria and Potential Treatment Options" under the guidance of research associate Terry Paulish.

According to their MDL mentors, the students did an impressive job in their 10 days in the lab.

"We focused each of them on a short-term project where they answered a specific question. This was not busy work. Both provided data sets that are relevant to our work," Dr. Hilbert said.

Noah said the chance to apply his classroom knowledge in a lab setting and tackle a real-life problem was gratifying.

"It was awesome being in a real lab with all this equipment at my fingertips. I was able to accomplish a lot in two weeks, which is a testa-

ment to my mentors."

While Noah has taken multiple biology and chemistry courses, including honors organic chemistry, he dialed it up a notch further when he enrolled in honors research in chemistry.

And, he says his time at MDL reaffirmed his goal to work as a cancer researcher. He will transfer to the University of Delaware in the fall to complete his bachelor's degree.

Indeed, Noah gives MCCC high marks.

"At Mercer, the professors are all about teaching. I have had small classes and lots of one-on-one attention. And, I have spent about one-eighth of what tuition would have cost me for my first two years at a four-year college."