Highlights of the KidSpark Conference

On April 2, 2011, COSAM’s Office of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs served as a key component of the KidSpark Conference, a day-long conference at Boutwell Auditorium coordinated by AT&T Alabama and Junior Achievement of Greater Birmingham, to encourage and promote education in the sciences.

Dr. Richardson and Ms. Evans arrived at the Boutwell Auditorium in Birmingham, AL at 8:30 a.m. to set up a table for students and parents to visit during check-in time 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Parents and students were encouraged to start planning for college early especially if interested in careers in mathematics and sciences.

COSAM Office of Diversity representatives also served as Career Representatives in three networking sessions. The two hour “Job Shadow” type of experience for 8th, 9th, and 10th grades provided an opportunity to discuss a variety of majors students can pursue related to science and technology and the careers that are related to those majors.

More than 400 Birmingham and Montgomery area middle and high school students and their parents gained valuable advice on how to prepare for future careers at KidSpark. Speakers included Birmingham Mayor William Bell and Fred McCallum, president of AT&T Alabama. The event was organized by long term Summer Bridge supporter and AT&T Pioneer Bell Rogers. KidSpark was funded by AT&T Pioneers, a volunteering arm of AT&T as part of its 100th anniversary.

The conference concluded with a lunch and additional guest speakers.