



## **CSIFT celebrates the U of I College of ACES Research Apprentice Program's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

The U of Illinois College of Agriculture, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES) Research Apprentice Program (RAP) celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Saturday, August 2. A luncheon and dinner provided an entire day of celebration, showcasing this summer's students at lunch, and the Program itself and its Director, Assistant ACES Dean Jesse C Thompson, at dinner. CSIFT has provided funding support for this program to U of I's Food Science and Human Nutrition Department for 21 of its 25 years. Our contributions have totaled more than \$100,000 through the years.

RAP I and II encourage development of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM)-related skills and interests while showcasing related academic and career opportunities enabled through the College of ACES. The program successfully targets under-represented high school students and attracts them to ACES-related STEM disciplines like Food Science. RAP's success is demonstrated through years of data.

Between 1988-2011, 1066 students participated in RAP I and II. Of these, 61% were African Americans and 28% Latinos. Of RAP II seniors, 548 of 566 enrolled in a four year college following graduation; 464 students selected a math, science or engineering-related field as their college major. After high school, 30% (319) of all RAP I and 52% of RAP II participants enrolled at UIUC, with 82% of these selecting majors within ACES.

For more information on RAP's accomplishments and the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration, please click this link. <http://aces.illinois.edu/news/rap-alums-celebrate-25-years-programs-success>