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Frederick Wins First Place At PAWC

Tennessee State University sophomore Alex K. Frederick recently received First Place in the Undergraduate Competition for his presentation titled *Microbiological Safety of Irrigation Water Used By A Local Farmer* at the *68th Annual Professional Agricultural Workers Conference (PAWC)*, at Tuskegee University in Tuskegee, Alabama.

Frederick, a Nutrition major in the Department of Family & Consumer Sciences presented his research paper before being questioned about his project by three judges. As the first place winner he received a certificate of recognition along with a \$500 cash prize.

"I saw a few posters around TSU about it, and I didn't really think too much of it," he said. "But Dr. Godwin came to me and asked me if I wanted to attend, and I had a lot going on at the time to be honest. I asked her if she thought it would be good for me, and she said I should attend if I had the time. She really is the one who pushed me into it."

Frederick credits the support of Dr. Sandria Godwin, Director of the Didactic Program in Dietetics in the TSU School of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences, as well as Research Associate Professor Dr. Fur-Chi Chen and Research Assistant Richard Stone with helping him obtain this award.

According to Dr. Godwin, this is the eighth year of the Agriculture Honor Society sponsored competition which is just a small part of the Professional Agricultural Workers Conference.

"What we like most about him (Alex) is his enthusiasm," she said. "He loves research. He gets so excited about the challenge, and he really tackles it."

Dr. Chen, who advised Frederick through the process of collecting and analyzing data as well as developing his project, also described Frederick as an exceptional student.

"Alex is a dependable student who is willing to take on responsibility," he said. "He is motivated to do research."

According to Frederick, the entire research project took him almost three months to complete.

"A local farmer in Nashville was having some irrigation issues with his water source. It was seen as being dirty so we studied his water and found out the microbial contamination levels to see if it was safe or not," he said. "We collected samples for about two months and there were about two weeks of planning beforehand."

Frederick competed against 14 students from six different institutions to win the award.