

Early Career Biology Mentor Award – Dr. Jacqueline D. Jones, Associate Professor of Biological and Environmental Sciences, Troy University

Dr. Jones completed her PhD at Tuskegee University/University of Alabama, Birmingham, followed by post-doctoral training at the University of Michigan. She joined Troy University as an Assistant Professor in 2015. Since then, Dr. Jones has mentored more than 20 students in her lab where they are focused on the *Implications of Foxi-3 in Prostate Cancer*. In addition to teaching, research training, poster design, and presentation skills, her students remarked on Dr. Jones' commitment to the personal development of her students as well; mentoring students in skills associated with work-life balance, self-advocacy, and time management. Dr. Jones' is also clearly committed to teaching her research students the intricacies of the publication process; evidence of this is the publication of eleven peer-reviewed articles (since 2015) in which undergraduate research students are authored. Likewise, she mentors her students to be successful in networking and career readiness; evidence of this is the long list of presentation grants and awards her students have won, from the local to the national level. Not surprisingly, all of these students have gone on to pursue graduate degrees. Dr. Jones also serves as a faculty mentor and research advisor for students in the Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation (LSAMP) program, and in the Troy University McNair Scholars Program. Collectively, she has supported and mentored almost ninety underrepresented research students through these two prestigious programs, committing to increasing the success of underrepresented students to STEM. One of her students remarked, "In the five years that I have known Dr. Jones, she has displayed a commitment to diversify the field of science, with absolute grace. She works overtime and extremely hard to ensure that the often forgotten make unforgettable impacts. She embodies the woman that I am still training to be. She is not only my mentor, but she also trained me to mentor others."