

# BUILDING WITH BIOLOGY AT GES

September 19, 2016



On September 19<sup>th</sup> the GES Center hosted a Building with Biology event.

Building with Biology is a nationwide community of educators, scientists, and researchers dedicated to extending STEM learning on science, technology, and societal implications by creating public and scientist dialogue about synthetic biology.

Most of the attendants were undergraduate students. The majority of the volunteers for the event were also students, including undergraduates Grace Simaan, Daniel Spruill, and Kirby Tung and graduate students Mike Jones, Michael Vella, and Eli Hornstein. Faculty member Keith Edmisten was also among the volunteers.

Our BWB event featured a variety of fun and informative activities related to synthetic biology. For example, one activity was 'BioBistro,' where students were presented with cutouts and descriptions of synthetic biology food products and asked to sort them onto one of three plates according to whether they would, would not, or might eat each food. The most consistent question students asked prior to making their decisions was 'do they taste the same?'



Eli Hornstein, who managed the activity, said, "I found that overall students were very willing to engage and work to elaborate the reasons for their decisions."

Another volunteer, Professor Keith Edmisten, stated, "I was impressed with the students ability and willingness to think "outside the box."

IGERT graduate student Caroline Leitschuh coordinated the event. The GES Center is appreciative of all her hard work and congratulatory of a job well done.