

2011 Vincent Forte Graduate School Fellowship

The LSU Chemical Engineering student, William Ainsworth, was recently awarded the 2011 Vincent A. Forte Graduate School Fellowship by the Louisiana Engineering Foundation. The Forte Fellowship award is granted each year to a student enrolled in a graduate program in engineering who express a sincere desire to enter the teaching profession at the University level. This award entails a \$2,000 stipend and a commemorative plaque, and it is named to honor Vincent A. Forte, P.E., a founder and first president of the LEF.

This year's recipient for the Vincent Forte Graduate School Fellowship is William Ainsworth. Mr. Ainsworth decided to pursue a graduate degree in Chemical Engineering at Louisiana State University. When he began the graduate program in spring 2010, he joined a group who shared the principles of understanding the complexity of natural processes providing insight into more sustainable, efficient chemistry. His research proficiency from years of past laboratory experience led his professor to entrust him with training a new student in undergraduate research. As a laboratory that focuses heavily on biology, he not only introduced the student to techniques but also taught detailed concepts on the biological nature of the project in a month's span. The short timeframe required the training to be concise yet informative, and he gained experience communicating difficult ideas in a clear, focused manner. Nonetheless, the enlightenment gained in the process was mutually beneficial in his development as a mentor and scholar alike.

This experience proved to be a pivotal moment in his career decision. He now treasures the academic environment, as it both promotes innovation inspired by a diverse populace and offers distinct opportunities to positively impact the community. Though his original plans were to enter industry upon doctoral graduation, he believes that a much more fulfilling occupation waits at a university.

The majority of William's time outside the lab is shared with his girlfriend. Their favorite pastime is discovering new music together. He also enjoys repairing vehicles. The process of fixing his vehicles provides a care-free escapism which he finds helps his focus when he returns to the lab. William trains for 5K's that Baton Rouge associations hold in order to push himself.