



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BRAIN, Inc. awarded grant from State Farm Youth Advisory Board

Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio (9/19/2016) — Biostatistics and Research Awareness Initiatives Network, Inc. (BRAIN) has been awarded a \$28,227.24 service-learning grant from the State Farm Youth Advisory Board (YAB) to support 10 Buchtel Community Learning Center students in optometry research at Akron Children’s Hospital and in a GIS project at Drexel University and the University of Pennsylvania in 2017. State Farm YAB Coordinator Kelsey West announced the grant recipients on the YAB Facebook page on September 13, 2016. The BRAIN award is one of 63 grants funded out of more than 800 applications.

Lillian Prince, executive director of BRAIN, said the funds will allow the students to gain statistical data analysis skills and conduct research to help clinicians address health issues affecting their communities. “The grant will make a huge impact in the lives of all the BRAIN students. We are all excited for next summer,” said Najm Porter, BRAIN Student PR Representative. **Elected officials, media, and community residents are invited to an assembly at 1pm on October 28, 2016 at Buchtel CLC for the cardboard check presentation from State Farm.**

About BRAIN

Biostatistics and Research Awareness Initiatives Network, Inc. was started in 2015 by Prince as the result of a pilot grant from members of the Biometrics Section of the American Statistical Association. Six minority young men from Buchtel CLC were exposed to biostatistics and health science careers through summer research projects with local medical clinicians. According to the US Census Bureau, the average racial and ethnic distribution of the STEM workforce in 2011 was 71% White, 15% Asian, 7% Hispanic, and 6% Black, with notable variations amongst each discipline. BRAIN completed its 2016 summer by serving 10 students, including 3 young women. For more information, call 330-414-2981 or visit www.brainprogram.org.

About the State Farm Youth Advisory Board

Thirty students, ages 17-20, from across the United States and Canada comprise the State Farm Youth Advisory Board. They are charged with helping State Farm design and implement a \$5 million-a-year signature service-learning initiative to issues important to State Farm and communities across the United States and Canada. Visit <http://www.statefarmyab.com/board-members/> for more information.