FISK NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FISK’S MARK CROWDER WINS NATIONAL ABRCMS AWARD

Nashville, Tenn., November 17, 2014 - Fisk University senior and Minority Access to Research Careers (MARC) Scholar, Mark Crowder, won the Physiology award at the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS) held November 12-15, 2014, in Austin, Texas. Mark’s research focused on an animal model of heart failure, and his efforts to discern the molecular bases underlying the reduced cardiac function. His research, which was completed in the pharmacology laboratory of Dr. Joey Barnett at Vanderbilt University, was under the direction of Fisk University professors, Dr. Lee Limbird and Dr. Steve Damo.

Nia Johnson, Saffron Little, and Maria Boyer also participated in the national conference and impressed the judges with the high impact of their research direction, understanding of their research, and the gaps in knowledge that they were addressing.

ABRCMS is designed to encourage underrepresented minority students to pursue advanced training in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and to provide faculty mentors and advisors with resources for facilitating students’ success. It is one of the largest professional conferences, attracting approximately 3,300 individuals, including 1,700 undergraduate students, 400 graduate students and postdoctoral scientists and 1200 faculty, program directors and administrators. Students came from over 350 U.S. colleges and universities. All are pursuing advanced training in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, and many have conducted independent research.

About Fisk University:

Founded in 1866, Fisk University is Nashville’s first institution of higher education and currently ranks in the top 20% of all liberal arts institutions in the nation according to The Washington Monthly. According to the American Physical Society, Fisk is the #1 producer of underrepresented minority Master's in Physics degrees. Fisk is ranked in the top 15 institutions for awarding the Master's in Physics degree for all students, and tied for fourth place for Master's degrees awarded to women. Fisk is the fourth highest ranked institution in Tennessee and the highest ranked Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in Forbes magazine’s 2014 edition of “America’s Top Colleges.” Fisk has ranked in Princeton Review’s “Best Southeastern Colleges” publication for 22 consecutive years. U.S. News & World Report ranks Fisk #146 in the elite Tier One liberal arts institutions. Only four HBCUs rank in Tier One. Fisk has earned four R&D 100 Awards for work in the creation of radiation detectors developed in collaboration with several national laboratories and corporations. No other HBCU has ever earned an R&D 100 Award. According to the National Science Foundation, Fisk produces more African-Americans who earn doctoral degrees in the natural sciences than any school in the nation. For more information on Fisk University, please visit www.fisk.edu.