

Presenter: Devanie Vera

Session & Time: Poster II

Room/Time: GLH / 2:30-3:30

Discipline: Biology

Faculty Mentor: Michaela George

Digital Portfolio URL:

Title: Influences of parent substance use behavior on child and young adult outcomes

Abstract:

Parents shape their childrenâ€™s behavior in powerful ways often without even realizing it. From a young age, children pay attention to what their parents and guardians do everyday and these actions can leave a lasting impression. Over time, this influence could especially be connected to substance use. If a child grows up seeing alcohol or drug use as a normal part of daily life they may begin to view it as harmless or expected, even when parents do not directly encourage these behaviors.As children enter adulthood they often rely on early family experience to guide decision making. When substance use is modeled at home it may increase curiosity and raise the likelihood of experimenting. Understanding how parental modeling can affect youth and child attitudes and behaviors towards substance use is important. By recognizing the role family environments play, it can help promote healthy behaviors and strengthen parent/child relationships.