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**National INCLUDES Network:**

The Improvement Science Team and other network attendees, including First2 Student Director Abigail Judy, participated in the NSF 2023 Eddie Bernice Johnson INCLUDES National Network Convening, August 2-4: [Full story and some remarks from some of the attendees.](#)

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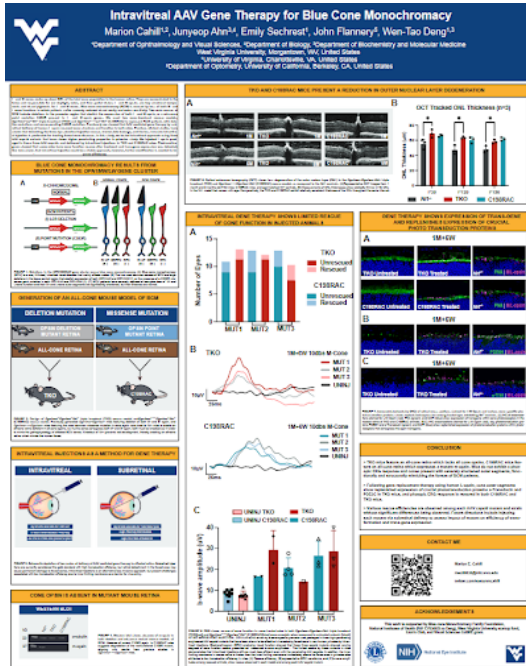
**First2 Network wishes Program Coordinator Jade Irving well as she leaves for a new position**

Jade's endless energy and infectious smile led the First2 Network community's day-to-day operations these last 3 years. She guided us through COVID as we explored and expanded online community wide gatherings, and afterwards shifting back to the in-person convenings. Jade became a master meeting facilitator as she organized the myriad of meetings and spread the message of First2 throughout higher-ed institutions, private businesses, and government organizations. *Thank you Jade for moving First2 Network forward. Best of luck in your new position.*

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# First2 Network scholars do well at the 2023 Summer Undergraduate Research Symposium

## 2023 Summer Undergraduate Research Symposium - Winners and Runners-Up

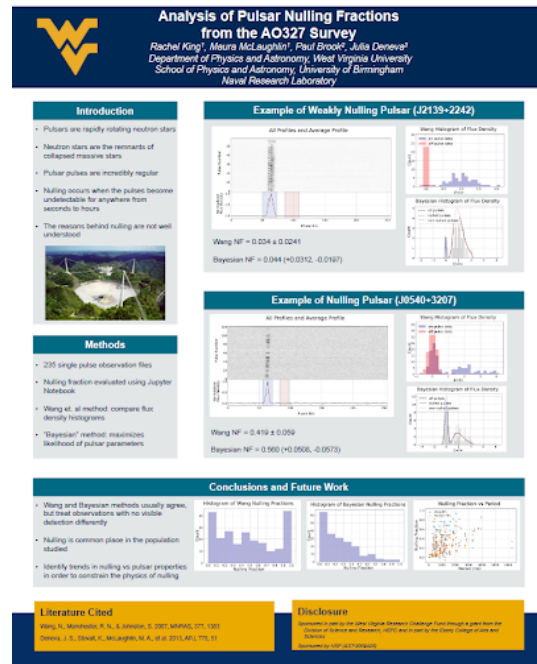


**Marion Cahill has winning poster in the Biological & Biochemical Sciences category**

Marion's presentation was selected as the winning poster in the Biological & Biochemical Sciences category. Marion's research was mentored by Dr. Wentao Deng and focused on "Intravitreal AAV Gene Therapy for Blue Cone Monochromacy."

### Rachel (Ray) King Named Runner Up at 2023 Summer Poster Symposium

Rachel (Ray) King, Ema Junior, Physics and Computer Science at WVU was named runner-up for their poster in the Physical Sciences and Engineering category at WVU's annual Summer Undergraduate Research Symposium in July 2023. Ray's poster was entitled "Analysis of Pulsar Nulling Fractions from the AO327 Survey" and Ray's research was mentored by Dr. Maura McLaughlin. Ray participated in WVU's Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE) program run by Dr. Rita Rio and Dr. Amy Hessl. Ray is funded by First2 as a Student Director for WVU. Congratulations Ray!



<https://symposium.foragerone.com/16th-summer-undergraduate-research-symposium/presentations/58211>

### **Marion Cahill and Keyzar Dominguez Present at WVU's 2023 Summer Undergraduate Research Symposium**

Current WVU-First2 Student Director, Keyzar Dominguez (SR Biochemistry major), and previous WVU First2 immersion participant, Marion Cahill (JR Biology major) also presented their research at WVU's 2023 Summer Undergraduate Research Symposium. Keyzar's research focused on the undergraduate research experiences of First2 participants across the state ([Benefits of Undergraduate Research on STEM Persistence - Symposium](#)). Keyzar was mentored in research by Dr. Marjorie Darrah who is part of WVU's First2 Institutional Team. (See July 2023 First2 Network Newsletter for more details)

Keyzar Dominguez, Ray King, and Marion Cahill were all supported in research via the 2023 Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE) at WVU.

<https://symposium.foragerone.com/16th-summer-undergraduate-research-symposium/presentations>

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### **Campus Clubs First Reports for 2023/2024 academic year**

Fairmont State University once again hosted the Sci-Tech Social due to its success last year. Cooper, one of Fairmont's Student Directors, was selected as a camp counselor for a Juvenile Diabetes Camp.

Over the summer, WVU Tech students, Ashley Lanham and Schuyler Schaal were mentors for Camp STEM at WVU Tech, and the kids loved them - especially when they set up the Nintendo Switch and everyone got to play Super Smash Bros. Fayth Hannah Laxton is now the first ever CO-CHAIR in WVU Tech history.

Oscar reports the WVU, First2 Club starts this year with an Ice Cream social. Director Ray King attended a Physics Conference in Australia over the summer and the newest director, Abigail Judy attended National Science Foundation [INCLUDES Conference](#) representing the First 2 Network during the summer. Two of our directors, Keyzar Dominguez and Ray King, both participated in a [SURE](#) Research experience over the summer. Directors Oscar Enriquez and Garrett Bender were selected as counselors for the [Frostburg Upward Bound](#) program. Garrett Bender taught a Microbiology class over the summer. Revan taught at the STEM Institute as well as the [Governors STEM Institute](#). Scholar, Mylee Franklin, was a counselor in a [E3 Energy Land Management camp](#) over the summer. Angelina, a scholar,

provided support to a ([Farm2U](#)) non-profit to help feed children over the summer. Scholar, Sarah Titta, presented at [AASP](#) (Palynological society) over the summer, and Scholar Stephanie Sarfowent traveled to Ghana this summer. Austin Driggs, a scholar, interned in Electrical Engineering at [4D Tech Solutions](#) working on their RedTail LiDAR system.

Fairmont State-Fairmont started classes on Monday, August 21. The immersion program wrapped up this week and was a great success!

Glenville Marshall recruited 5 new students as scholars.

University of Charleston WVU - We are starting weekly meetings next week with an ice cream social. We are still selecting scholars.

WVU Tech- We have started our weekly club meetings (as of August 17th). We completed a New Student Leader Workshop that covered how to set up First2Network accounts, how to join groups in the Network, how to access and use Slack messaging boards, student requirements/timekeeping, and an All-Students Meeting reminder. This workshop was held by our Student Directors. Additionally, we are attending WVU Tech's Involvement Fair next week (August 24th). We are currently working towards our PDSA cycle (it will be a club-wide PDSA).

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### **WVU Student Director Ty Landis is now a published research author with an article presented at Spring 2023 WVU Undergraduate Research Symposium**

Ty was part of a project last year which looked at hypersensitivity pneumonitis (HP; essentially, an allergic inflammation of the lungs) and how it may or may not disproportionately affect rural Appalachians. The team found some very interesting trends that are currently being looked at further in hopes of shedding some light on this often overlooked disease.

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### **Job Announcements:**

Please apply and/or help share a Position Announcement (full consideration by September 7; open until filled): Associate Director at HEPC Division of Science, Technology and Research (STaR): [https://www.schooljobs.com/careers/wvhepc/jobs/4173765/associate-director-of-science-technology-and-research-star?pagetype=jobOpportunitiesJobs&fbclid=IwAR0N2NBe\\_CQbK0jEvck3-uBuCDoWc6MgZNK8B9WUC\\_SPTRVm8sEetplbokw](https://www.schooljobs.com/careers/wvhepc/jobs/4173765/associate-director-of-science-technology-and-research-star?pagetype=jobOpportunitiesJobs&fbclid=IwAR0N2NBe_CQbK0jEvck3-uBuCDoWc6MgZNK8B9WUC_SPTRVm8sEetplbokw)

Craig Thomas of Solvay, co-chair of the First2 Industry Advisory Board, shared an opening

for a QC Analyst at Willow Island, WV. This would be a great opportunity for a new grad or even someone with a few years of experience. Interested candidates can apply at [www.solvay.com](http://www.solvay.com).



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