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Appreciation for Conference Funding

In the spring of 2022, I was accepted to the Association for Psychological Science National Conference that took place from May 25th- 29th in Chicago, IL. This conference was funded in part by Shackoul's Honors College in addition to the Department of Psychology at Mississippi State University. This conference was transformational in my ability to network and connect with many other students and professionals with my same areas of interest. I was able to connect with professors at two future doctoral programs in Psychology that I am interested in attending, and I also heard firsthand from several students about their advice to an aspiring undergraduate. I also attended a seminar relating to factor analysis and coding in SPSS and Matlab, which contributed to my understanding of psychological analysis. In addition to connections I made, I also was able to get experience in poster presentations on a national scale. This conference had 11 poster sessions, with over 100 posters presented at each. In listening to and comprehending dozens of presentations from a multitude of psychological disciplines, new areas of interest were introduced to me, and I also gained techniques and strategies to make more effective posters and presentations from others' ideas. As a first-year undergraduate student, the opportunity to present my own research at a national level and to learn from lectures and conversations with professionals in the field was invaluable and opened many future doors for me.