



FAU
STILES-NICHOLSON
BRAIN INSTITUTE
Florida Atlantic University



- **Mission:** The FAU Stiles-Nicholson Brain Institute's ASCEND (Advancing STEM-Community Engagement through Neuroscience Discovery) program was established to address the national shortage in STEM career-oriented students by tapping the energy and intellect of neuroscientists and their trainees to excite young minds through story-telling sessions, question-driven discussions, and hands-on activities that can illustrate in an age-appropriate manner the amazing advances being achieved in brain science.
- **Goals:** To increase public awareness and understanding of the fascinating research discoveries of brain scientists. To enhance the desire/capacity of young minds to learn/work in STEM. To, more broadly, transform society into one that values and supports scientific inquiry. To enlarge our nation's commitment to the growth of a well-trained, scientifically literate work force that can ensure maintained U.S. leadership in neuroscience discovery and the translation of brain discoveries into practical benefits for all of mankind.
- **ASCEND NeuroExplorers Program:** In this after school semester-long program for grades 6-8, students will interact directly with and learn from professional neuroscientists and their trainees from FAU, Scripps Florida, and Max Planck Florida Institute. NeuroExplorers program participants will have the following opportunities to:
 - Learn science concepts led by trained neuroscientists who will interact with students throughout the semester.
 - Engage in biweekly hands-on, interactive, and virtual reality activities at STEM Studio in Abacoa with opportunity to visit a neuroscience laboratory.
 - Participate in webcasts to talk about what they learned during STEM Studio sessions and in podcasts of recent, exciting neuroscience discoveries. *Please note that ASCEND participant's names and/or contacts will NOT be disclosed in podcasts or webcasts.*
 - Graduate as a Jr. Neuroscientist. Program graduation will be held at the end of the semester. Students will present a science poster explaining concepts they learned during the program to parents/guardians, extended family members, and friends.

ASCEND

For more information about ASCEND visit our website: www.fau.edu/ibrain/ascend/
Specific questions regarding NeuroExplorers program email: BI-outreach@fau.edu