**FedEx Institute of Technology hosts BIOMATERIALS Day 2018**

The University of Memphis and the University of Tennessee Health Science Center partnered to bring Biomaterials Day 2018, a day-long conference that featured oral and poster presentations from undergraduate and graduate researchers, panel presentations that included academic researchers and industry professionals, and a keynote from an industry expert. Over 100 registrants from across the Mid-South attended and participated in the various events of Biomaterials Day 2018, held in the FedEx Institute of Technology.

Dr. Len Pinchuk of Miami, Florida served as the keynote speaker for the conference. He has helped start 10 companies and has been issued more than 100 hundred U.S. patents. Currently, he spends much of his research in the field of glaucoma and continues to incubate a potential company in the genetic engineering space. Dr. Pinchuk used his keynote address to highlight how biomaterials research can effectively change the best practices in medicine and health industries. This keynote spoke directly to encouraging young researchers to remain in the field and identify how their research can impact and spur bourgeoning fields of STEM. Beyond the keynote, a Professional Development Workshop for students was offered to discuss practical strategies of interviewing, using LinkedIn, and creating resumes and CVs. Additionally, the Women in STEM Panel discussed topics related to diversity in STEM as well as obtaining mentorship relationships and maintaining work/life balance.

David LeVine, Conference Planning Committee Chair for Biomaterials Day 2018, noted, “This conference aims to provide a platform for researchers of all levels of experience to present their work; offer invaluable networking opportunities among students, faculty, and professionals; and encourage the next generations of researchers and industry specialists.” This conference served not only faculty but also students, both graduate and undergraduates.

The University of Memphis is committed to supporting students of all levels in their pursuit of STEM research. For more information or to inquire about next year’s event, please contact David LeVine at dalevine@memphis.edu. For more information on this release, contact Mary Ann Dawson at mdawson@memphis.edu.