**2015-2016 Leadership Development Scholars**

**Leslie Adams** (Health Behavior), **Yesenia Merino** (Health Behavior), **Giuliana Morales** (Health Behavior) - First Generation Graduate Student Initiative.

The goal of the First Generation Graduate Student Initiative is to develop resources and informal networking opportunities geared toward first generation graduate students throughout their training. The Initiative aims to reach first generation master and doctoral students through three programs: a Mock Networking Event, monthly First Gen Fridays, and an Advanced Student and Post-Doc Panel. Our programming will address first generation graduate student needs by (1) creating a social and collaborative community (2) building a forum to enhance networking skills, (3) developing opportunities for meaningful cross-disciplinary interactions, and (4) strengthening core professional development competencies.

**Bud Harrelson** (Education) - LGBTQ Issues are Education Issues: Increasing Knowledge, Awareness, and Skills of Education Graduate Students and Faculty

To increase current SOE graduate student awareness of the needs of LGBTQ youth, I will conduct a series of professional development workshops. The workshops will address the following topics:

1. Formation of sexual orientation and gender identity within youth
2. Introduction to LGBTQ terms and vocabulary
3. Review of the literature that describes the poor academic and health outcomes of LGBTQ youth
4. Review of the literature that describes ways to build resilience within LGBTQ youth
5. Strategies for reducing heteronormativity within the classroom and promoting an environment of inclusiveness with respect to LGBTQ youth
6. A deeper dive into the unique needs and experiences of gender non-conforming youth
7. LGBTQ youth, employees, and families and the law
8. Examination of the needs of families with same-gender parents

**Tojan Rahhal** (Pharmaceutical Sciences) - Cross-Cultural Leadership Development Workshop.

This is a one of a kind direct intervention starting in the ESOP and potentially being mimicked in other departments if we prove efficacious this year. It will directly impact professional student leadership and development, as it will prepare them to become future leaders and global citizens. Furthermore, this will enhance their academic development as they interact with their peers at a different level. And lastly, the ability to network with peers will further develop communication skills. This proposed workshop is aligned with PD competencies and needs the assistance of this program to insure a successful year, which will allow for future implementation of this program.