

October 8, 2016.

**The 2016 Frank Deane Passion for Science Awardee is Yesenia Acevedo** a newly admitted graduate student in the Biophysics division of the Applied Chemistry program at UPRM.

By: Belinda Pastrana, Ph.D.

**Lilly del Caribe, Inc.** has been established in Carolina, Puerto Rico for 50 years with a mission for the production of quality life-saving medicines ( <http://lilly.com> ). In their commitment to providing opportunities and experiences to recognize and aid talented students with strong science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) skills and leadership qualities. Lilly del Caribe has created a scholarship program to foster scientific excellence. This Scholarship not only includes financial support, but also opportunities for experience in the Biopharma industry and mentorship. It is highly competitive, for the award is given to only one nominee. The award is renewable for 4 years and is not transferable.

The award is not limited to the student, but Lilly understands that the research experience and mentorship that the student received played a significant role in the development of the nominee and therefore the undergraduate mentor also receives a grant for laboratory research to continue its research and mentorship with other undergraduate students.

Yesenia Acevedo demonstrated through her academic excellence, essay and community service at the undergraduate level that she met and exceeded the requirements for such a distinction. She is the eldest of three siblings and curiously they are all currently enrolled at UPRM.

The eligibility requirements for such a scholarship are the following:

- The student must be accepted to or within its first year of graduate studies in an accredited institution I Puerto Rico in the fields of chemistry, chemical engineering, biochemistry, biotechnology, biochemical engineering, microbiology, or industrial pharmacy.
- The capacity to contribute to the advancement of knowledge in the science and engineering fields by pursuing original and creative research work at the advanced level.
- Outstanding personal qualities, exceptional leadership skills and collaboration abilities.
- Outstanding contributions to the university and community.
- Be a Unite States citizen or resident of Puerto Rico.