Underage drinking has become increasingly common among college students, high school students, and even middle-school students. Alcohol consumption in such individuals can lead to a variety of legal consequences, can increase the risk for accidents, and has potential for heightening susceptibility to subsequent alcohol dependence. Adults who drink at moderate levels generally experience few health-related consequences. However, alcohol consumption during pregnancy, binge drinking, drinking in individuals with a family history of alcoholism, long-term heavy drinking, and drinking in the elderly all have distinct health-related risks. Many of these situations depend on the developmental stage of the brain and its sensitivity to alcohol actions. This special evening symposium will address some of the latest research on the neuroscience of alcohol, describe current trends in underage drinking, and review some of the evidence-based prevention programs that are being used. Speakers will also give a preview of the Brain Science Health Exhibition to be held for Magruder High School students on March 4 - 5. This special symposium will be of interest to school administrators, teachers, counselors, parents, and students.

Presentations:

- **Welcome and Introduction** – Leroy C. Evans, Principal, Magruder High School
- **Alcohol and the Developing Brain** – Dr. Dennis Twombly (NICHD-NIH) will explain how changes in brain development dictate sensitivity to alcohol intoxication and alcohol-induced brain damage. He will also identify the health risks associated with certain patterns of drinking, including how binge drinking in adolescence has been linked to brain damage and alcohol addiction later in life.
- **Underage Drinking: Prevalence and Prevention** – Dr. Patricia Powell (NIAAA-NIH) will review current trends in underage drinking and discuss recent research on alcohol prevention programs.
- **Brain Science Health Exhibition** – Mr. Archie Fobbs (National Museum of Health & Medicine) will give a preview of the Brain Science Health Exhibition to be held for Magruder High School students.

Speakers:

- **Dennis A. Twombly, Ph.D.**, Deputy Director, Office of Extramural Policy, *Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD-NIH)*, dtwombly@mail.nih.gov.
- **Patricia Powell, Ph.D.**, Chief, Science Policy Branch, National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, (NIAAA-NIH), ppowell@mail.nih.gov.
- **Archibald J. Fobbs, Jr.**, Collections Manager, Neuroanatomical Division, National Museum of Health and Medicine, Archibald.j.Fobbs@us.army.mil.