

## NIEHS celebrates 2014 Fall Fest

*By Ian Thomas*

Scientists and employees from across the institute flocked to NIEHS main building Oct. 23 for the 2014 Fall Fest. The four-hour event featured Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) charities, community service groups, and vendors, as well as canoeing, kayaking, and stand-up paddleboarding on Discovery Lake.

“Events like this allow our employees to really get to know the organizations they’re supporting through CFC, and interact with many others within our local community,” said Claire Long, an employee services specialist with the NIEHS Administrative Services and Analysis Branch.

Long coordinated the event with colleagues Ed Kang, Jenn Evans, Cynthia Radford, and A'tondra Caree.

### **A community affair**

In addition to raising funds for CFC, Fall Fest also sought to unite NIEHS employees with other charities and local support organizations from around the North Carolina Triangle area. In all, representatives from more than 60 organizations were on hand to pass out literature and answer questions.

“This is our first year of affiliation with Fall Fest and it’s been an amazing experience so far,” said Terry Morris of Vets to Vets United, a CFC organization that unites veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress with animals in need of a loving companion and home. “From new recruiting efforts to networking opportunities with other charities, CFC has allowed us to take our mission of helping America’s vets to a lot of places it might not have otherwise gone.”

(Ian Thomas is a public affairs specialist for the NIEHS Office of Communication and Public Liaison, and a regular contributor to the Environmental Factor.)



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Clyde Hasty of the NIEHS Health and Safety Branch asked questions at an information table set up outside the main building. (Photo courtesy of Steve McCaw)



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A team from NCFirst Robotics showed off Spitfire, a robotic basketball player. (Photo courtesy of Steve McCaw)



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NIEHS employees took part in a number of outdoor activities, courtesy of Frog Hollow Outdoors. (Photo courtesy of Steve McCaw)



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NIEHS health scientist Rachel Frawley tried out a paddleboard. (Photo courtesy of Steve McCaw)



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*NIEHS fellows Georgia Hinkley, Ph.D., left, and Natasha Catlin, Ph.D., right, made new friends at Fall Fest. (Photo courtesy of Steve McCaw)*



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*Chances are this little guy will find a home before long. (Photo courtesy of Steve McCaw)*

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