

KRHS Student has an Interesting Summer

During the summer break, Abigail LoCascio spent five days at Harvard to learn more about Pre-Med. During that time she:

- listened to lectures by Harvard professors regarding psychology and cell protein production
- was taught the basics of topics, for example genetics and organic chemistry, by Harvard college students
- went on field trips to the Harvard Medical School to speak with medical students
- explored the science museum



Abigail was also involved in a group project based on the disease Progressive Multifocal Leukoencephalopathy. PML attacks the brain in a body that has a low immune system. It destroys the cells that create myelin, the substance that protects your nerves. Without myelin a person experiences difficulty moving, thinking, and feeling sensations. They did extensive research into the disease, its effects, treatments and discoveries. Her group developed some hypothetical treatments and won most innovative project!

Abigail was then off to Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island for a two-week summer camp. Though entitled a STEM course for rising 9th and 10th graders, students also received the full college experience by living in the dorms, rooming with other students, and eating in the cafeteria. She met students from all over the world including India, China, and Switzerland.

Abigail enjoyed her class in biomimicry which is using nature's adaptations to solve mechanical problems in engineering. For her final project, she made a more efficient wind turbine based on how birds fly. Her second class involved engineering toys for kids with disabilities.

Abigail loved both experiences. Just so you know, her sister, a college student at Brown, told her about that STEM opportunity. It might be worth your while to check out various colleges and universities to see what they will be offering next summer.