

March 2020



HARRISH

Gains in the Education of Mathematics and Science [GEMS]

I'm a sophomore at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST), Alexandria, VA. I would like to become a neurosurgeon some day in the near future!

WORDS OF ADVICE

GEMS helped me gain STEM knowledge and skills while I participated in lessons that were unique, creative and engaging. The moment you find a program that feels like a good fit, apply immediately. It will be an experience of a lifetime.

BEST THINGS ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The best thing about GEMS is the interactive nature of the lessons. I was able to learn and explore STEM with other middle and high school students at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (WRAIR). The program routinely brought in speakers who worked at the lab. These scientists were so passionate, and their stories were so compelling, which made me more interested in pursuing a career in STEM.

HOW PARTICIPATING IN AEOP INSPIRED YOU TO ADVANCE IN STEM

GEMS has motivated me to pursue a career in STEM. I participated in this program while I was in middle school, and it boosted my confidence. Now, as a sophomore at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, I feel prepared and capable in the many advanced science courses I'm taking.

WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE STEM ROLE MODEL? WHY?

Jonas Salk is my favorite STEM role model. Despite the fact that he invented the polio vaccine, he did not patent it because he wanted to ensure it could be made available to as many people as possible.

WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE HOPES AND DREAMS?

Like Jonas Salk, I would also like find a cure for diseases such as HIV, Alzheimer's, diabetes and make them easily available to everyone.