



PHASE

A Newsletter of Skaggs Center Internships

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PHASE I STUDENT WITH GMD HONORED FOR OVERCOMING ADVERSITY



Hong Leong during the summer 2009 picnic for NOAA and NIST students.

The following article in this issue of PHASE is published with permission of the Longmont Times-Call. The article which appeared on March 17, 2010, was written by Victoria A.R. Camron.

Yew Leong, who preferred to be called Hong, has never walked the halls of Niwot High School—or any other school, for that matter.

Diagnosed with spinal muscular atrophy when he was 6 months old, Leong has used a wheelchair his entire life. But that hasn't stopped him from enrolling in Niwot High's International Baccalaureate program, getting

perfect scores on the math and chemistry SATs or completing an internship at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

“I just work hard, Leong said Tuesday before being recognized as one of 22 area teenagers in Boulder County nominated for the 2010 Metropolitan Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. They were presented with plaques and gift cards during a dessert reception with two Boulder County commissioners, Ben Perlman and Will Toor.

Perlman told the nominees that all their stories were inspiring.

“A lot of people have it easy in this country, and a lot of people don't,” Perlman said. “We need to make it so everyone has a chance.”

Having spinal muscular atrophy means Leong has an abnormal gene that caused a deficiency in the survival motor neuron protein. Consequently, the neurons that control normal motor skills are not healthy, so those nerve cells atrophy and eventually die, according to a support group's Web site.

At school, Leong must rely on paraprofessional Susan Chunn to move his hand from the controls of his electric wheelchair to a worksheet that she pulled out of his backpack, or to control a mouse as he tells her where to direct a cursor.

Through the International Baccalaureate program, Leong is taking high-level English, math, chemistry and psychology, which means he completes two years of classes in one year, he said. His two standard level classes are physics and Spanish.

He enrolled in the IB program because he wanted to immerse himself in a “more international” take on his studies, he said. Leong was born in Singapore and lived there until he was 12, then moved to Australia with his family for three years, he said. They lived in New Jersey for one year before moving to Colorado, he said.

In college, Leong plans to study biochemistry, hopefully at Berkeley, “I want to find a cure for my illness,” he said.



Hong Leong learns about Stanford University from Daniel Leifer (NIST) in red shirt, and Graham Herrli (NOAA).



Ann Thorne, ESRL Student Program Manager, seen here with Hong Leong at last year’s NIST/NOAA picnic recently stated that she has had meetings with Rebecca Haacker-Santos, NCAR SOARS program and Valerie Sloan with the RESESS program about holding joint activities. Plans are to invite students from the various programs to observe project presentations, tours, outings and a joint picnic close to the Bear Creek Apartments. She said that it was important for the students to get to know each other and share jobs experiences and future plans.

Ann said she has received over 100 student applications for PHASE I, II, and III opportunities. She is in the process of meeting with supervisors to see which students could work out well for the summer in performing the work that has been identified.

Ann said that students like Hong Leong are extremely smart and could hold their own with students from other parts of the country and from schools on both coasts.

A SAMPLING OF RECENT PHASE PROGRAM ACTIVITIES



From left, after a planning meeting at the Mesa Lab to partner with NCAR to place high school students under a new NCAR High School Intern program: Susan Foster, Rajul Pandya, Ann Thorne, Teresa Eastburn, Karen Smith-Herman, Rebecca Haacker-Santos, Kyle Ham. (Not pictured is Nancy Lee Fithian from Human Resources.)

NCAR is offering, for the first time, an internship opportunity for high school students interested in exploring careers in the atmospheric and related sciences. NCAR expects to hire between four and eight students this year. To qualify, students must currently be juniors or seniors in high school, and at least 16 years old by July 1, 2010. The application process will require them to write an essay and to provide a letter of recommendation from a teacher as well as an official copy of their transcript. Students will conduct original research, participate in workshops with other interns and give a final poster presentation about their internship by the end of the summer. For information and questions about the application process contact Nancy Lee Fithian, 303.497.8715 (nfithian@ucar.edu) or Karen Smith-Herman at 303.497.2590 (ksmithhe@ucar.edu).



From left, Ann Thorne, Rebecca Haacker-Santos, and Rajul Pandya discussing program plans for the NCAR High School Summer Intern program which begins on July 6th and ends on August 6th.

Education, Science, Careers

A SAMPLING OF RECENT PHASE PROGRAM ACTIVITIES



From left, Roy Chavez and his wife Mickie, Ciana Marie Chavez Costner, and Ann Thorne at the Twin Peaks Job Fair in Longmont, held on March 10th. Roy worked for NOAA in Building 22 prior to his retirement from Federal service. Ciana will be attending Regis in Denver.



Visiting with Ann Thorne at the NOAA booth were Weng Leong, Yew Leong, and Jonathan Lin. Brother Hong Leong is featured on pages 1 and 2. He attended the same Job Fair last year and was hired by GMD.

In a handout from Claire Callahan, with the Governor's Summer Job Hunt and Workforce Boulder County, she stated that Workforce Boulder County would list job openings at no cost and refer qualified applicants to employers. She listed the benefits of working locally: to directly shape the future workforce from the beginning; to acquire young adults with fresh ideas who are open to new experiences and eager for knowledge; to save valuable dollars and time utilizing the largest applicant database, web-based services and nationwide connections; to recruit qualified applicants, many with Job Readiness Certification; and to be part of the community and provide young adults with valuable job experience. Claire can be reached at 303.827.7455 or Boulder_gsjh@wfbc.org.

Education, Science, Careers

The Objectives of the ESRL Intern Program

- A. To seek a broad development and expansion of internship opportunities for high school, college and graduate students and high school teachers.
- B. To assist and encourage NOAA organizations in establishing goals and identifying the best possible sources for the recruitment, employment, training and advancement of student Interns.
- C. To encourage and actively support the promotion and advancement of Interns already employed.
- D. To analyze and determine the educational and professional needs of students seeking entry and advancement in employment; and, whenever possible, provide appropriate training and counseling services to meet these needs.
- E. To establish and continually upgrade a broad range of contact with supervisors and Interns across the country via personal visits, telephone calls, e-mails, and periodic newsletters.
- F. To respond to the reasonable requests from non-NOAA groups for student referrals when their objectives are supportable and similar to the ESRL PHASE program.
- G. To enhance the promotion of student excellence, pride, and camaraderie through organized and regular social gatherings which will serve to bind students together.
- H. To provide a forum for major research issues of local and national significance so that students may be better informed and may express their views through seminar presentations before their peers and supervisors.

Key Advisory Board Functions

The key functions performed by the PHASE Advisory Board include: **Advocacy on Employment and Education Issues**, **Membership and Outreach**, and **Consultation with Students and Supervisors**. The following is a brief description of each function:

Advocacy on Employment and Education Issues

The advocacy function is performed when advisory board members take a pro-active role in seeing that an employment related issue is addressed by the appropriate community, education or government organization. This function typically involves the following: assisting students and parents with local school issues, e.g. summer jobs, internships, grades and course requirements; informing the local community on student internship opportunities; and researching employment opportunities and various employment related topics such as housing, travel, and community demographics.

Membership and Outreach

The membership committee is charged with an ongoing program of recruiting and retaining members of the Advisory Board. This involves coordinating a yearly membership drive for new members. The outreach function is performed by going out into the community to explain NOAA internship programs and communicating the assistance that can be provided. Typically, this function involves attending meetings and briefings, networking with NOAA agency representatives, providing orientation briefings to newcomers, attending training sessions and education workshops - both as participants and presenters.

Consultation

Consultation services are typically private and are provided to students, parents and teachers who need explanations related to PHASE documents and procedures. This function typically involves mediating an issue at the lowest level before it escalates and assisting the ESRL Student Coordinator with employee issues.



***PHASE* is a publication
of the ESRL Student
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ESRL Student Coordinator:
Ann Thorne
Skaggs Research Center
325 Broadway
Boulder, CO 80305
Phone 303.497.4600

PHASE seeks to inform
Employees and students on
Employment programs and
Internships.

Editors: Tony Tafoya and
Ann Thorne

MISSION

The mission of the Practical Hands on Application to Science Education (PHASE) program is to have students benefit from a science intern program at a Federal facility.

The objectives of the program are (1) for laboratories to identify student projects that provide a learning environment and focus on practical hands-on activities; (2) to provide laboratories with profiles of students who have an interest in considering NOAA and science in general as a positive career choice; and (3) to inform students of career opportunities in NOAA.

For more information visit: PHASE@noaa.gov and esrl.noaa.gov/outreach/student_programs

A REMINDER FOR SUPERVISORS WHO NEED SUMMER STUDENTS.

Please identify jobs for:

High School students as
PHASE I;
College students as
PHASE II;
Graduate students as
PHASE III.

Send projections to Ann Thorne
ann.thorne@noaa.gov

COLLABORATING ORGANIZATIONS

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES:

NOAA/OAR/ESRL
NOAA/NWS/SWPC
NOAA/NESDIS/NGDC
NIST
NTIA
Workforce Boulder County

HIGHER EDUCATION:

University of Colorado/CIRES
CU SORCE Program

COMMUNITY:

SACNAS
MESA
AISES
National Image, Inc.
Blacks-In-Government (BIG)

SCHOOL DISTRICTS:

Boulder Valley (BVSD)
St. Vrain Valley (SVVSD)



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Please add me to newsletter mailing list. (Please print or type.) Issue #4, 2010

Name	
Home Address or School Address	
City, State, Zip Code	
Telephone and E-mail Address	

Ann Thorne
ESRL Student Coordinator
Skaggs Research Center
325 Broadway
Boulder, CO 80305