

Wednesday, October 8, 2014

Two DHS students receive corporate recognition

DARTMOUTH — Students, Lindsay Foster and Brooke Spencer, who spent six weeks of their summer time researching topics like enzyme, immunity, drug development, and conducting experiments with advanced biotechnology techniques like electrophoresis and immunochemistry, got a corporate recognition after their work was presented at the international botulinum research symposium.

IPSEN-USA, a French-British company recognized the excellent work of these two students by providing the corporate recognition certificate on Sept. 2 at a dinner ceremony attended by students, parents and staff members of the Institute of Advanced Sciences.

IPSEN representative, John Bruins, was highly moved by the dedication and skill of the students for their outstanding research accomplishments at such an early age. "These students must be recognized for their outstanding work to send out a message to young people that they have much to contribute to science," said Bruins, who is the medical liaison to the company in New England area.

Lindsay, who is contemplating a medical profession in future, said, "This internship was a fantastic opportunity for me to learn about and experience working in a lab." I know that my experience will help me as I pursue a degree in biological chemistry."

Brooke is still not sure what she wants to pursue as a career, but said "My IAS (Institute of Advanced Sciences) internship was an incredible opportunity. It was great to obtain real-world experience in a field that I'm interested in, and I learned so much while I was there."

Candidates for the internship program were selected competitively, as the institute had only two positions this year and limited it to Dartmouth High School. Professor Bal Ram Singh, president of the institute, said that there several very qualified students who showed interest in the internship.

"It was difficult to select just two out of a pool of seven well qualified students," said Paul Lindo, director of operations at the institute, who did the initial screening and reference check on the candidates.

"We were limited in resources this year, but plan to expand the program next year to other area high school", said Singh citing helping young students expand their science horizon as an important part of the Institute's mission.

"We are very pleased with the outcome of our efforts with these students and are encouraged to expand this program next year to provide exciting and elevated opportunity otherwise not available to the students in the SouthCoast area" said Singh who got encouragement from the promise of future support by IPSEN and possibly other corporations.

Student interns were very thankful to their immediate supervisors, Dr. Raj Kumar and Dr. Lei Wang, who rated these two students at par with best of the college students in the learning approach and experimental skills.