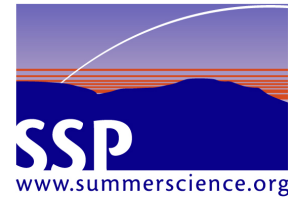


THE SUMMER SCIENCE PROGRAM



August, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to confirm that **Omar El-Kishky** of Flint, TX, a student at Tyler Lee (Robert E. Lee) High School, together with his two peer teammates, successfully completed a research project at the 2019 Summer Science Program at University of California. Omar used wet lab techniques and modeling software to study an enzyme from a fungal pathogen, and to design a small molecule inhibitor to protect crops from that fungus.

SSP is one of the oldest (since 1959) and most prestigious pre-college STEM research programs, and uniquely operated and funded by its own alumni. Omar was one of 144 admitted from a pool of over 1,300 applicants from around the world, all showing extraordinary aptitude and interest in STEM.

Notably, admissions decisions are made by volunteer program alumni, in a holistic, need-blind process. After an applicant is admitted, we meet all demonstrated need with financial aid grants.

We immerse these talented students in a challenging, rigorous, diverse, supportive environment that requires collaboration and stimulates personal growth. Supported by fast-paced instruction from college professors in upperclass-undergrad level biochemistry and molecular modeling, and hands-on experience with research-grade equipment and software, they come to understand the joys, hard work, frustrations, and ambiguity of authentic scientific research. Each participant is engaged in research-related activities for at least 300 hours over the 39 days and nights.

As SSP is a non-credit enrichment program for highly motivated teenagers, learning is its own reward; there are no tests, grades, or written evaluations.

This intense experience inspires academically advanced teenagers in ways high schools cannot, preparing them to excel in college and beyond.

For more information, visit summerscience.org or contact me directly.

Best regards,

Richard D. Bowdon SSP '74
Executive Director, rbowdon@ssp.org

SSP is operated by an independent non-profit, in cooperation with host campuses New Mexico Institute of Technology, University of Colorado Boulder, Purdue University, and University of California San Diego, and affiliates California Institute of Technology, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Harvey Mudd College.