

KEYS so far has been an extremely enjoyable experience, as I've learned so much and everyone has been very welcoming and have helped me get through the tough parts of my week with fun team builders and activities. Although everything has been going well so far, there have been some surprises for me. Before I actually came to participate in KEYS, I always imagined it would be insanely rigorous and I would be all alone in my lab work without anyone supporting me. I was somewhat surprised to see how the program has gone so far because I totally didn't expect the great situation I am in right now with feeling like I'm in this with every one of the staff, crew, and interns. I was also very surprised at how much I would love the data science aspect of KEYS this year. I thought I signed up for a wet lab experience this summer, but so far my data science research has been extremely exciting. I am super surprised at how interesting my lab project has been. Initially, I was upset that I didn't get my first choice in projects that I selected but as I started working in the lab and started to learn more about the work they are doing, I became enthusiastic about the research and started to look forward to meeting with my lab to talk more about my project. This summer has been full of surprises so far but they have influenced how I feel about research and given me an insight into how I want to continue my research.

The surprises I encountered gave me a new perspective on research and have shown me how collaborative research can and should be. With all the KEYS staff, crew, and interns helping me this summer, I feel as if I am doing this research with everyone and it has let me become more social. I think the social aspect of KEYS can translate into my work and allow me to not be afraid to ask questions and talk to my PI when I need to. My surprising interest in my project has allowed me to be productive when doing my research and doing assignments for my lab because it feels like I'm doing what I love to do rather than rigorous work. I think that my project suits me well and now it feels like it's exactly what I was looking for when I was selecting my project initially.

Because of the amazing environment here, I think doing research in an educational setting as a professor or researcher has become an option for me as a future career path. My project has also interested me more in immunology and how diverse the immune system is. I think I would love to continue research in immunology in the future in a combination with data science. I feel as if this summer has taught me a lot about my interests and what I would like to pursue in the future.