

This summer, I felt like I've learned much about research and gained many skills, but there have also been many challenging moments in which I almost gave up. I almost let these difficulties define my summer. One of which was the moment in which nothing was going my way when I was attempting to resolve an issue in my lab work. This moment took a toll on my enthusiasm, as I only focused on the aspect of failure and defeat. I wasn't able to resolve an ongoing issue in my code and that thought lingered in my head for so long. I gave up on solving this problem and decided to move on but I felt like I was just quitting.

I realized that it was my emotions that were weighing me down and didn't allow me to think clearly. I had let my disappointment in myself after only a while after trying to solve this problem to cloud my thinking. What helped me realize this was the talk by Ricky Cordova. His talk really opened my eyes to what I could do if I didn't let the idea of failure scare me. I reapproached this problem from a different perspective and didn't give up even though it took a long while to figure out the solution. I learned that if I was patient with myself and my work I would figure it out at some point.

I feel like I learned how to be patient and persistent. I think these qualities can help me finish off my research without giving up at all. These qualities are also important in other aspects of my future and how I choose to approach difficult situations that I may encounter in my future career. I came into KEYS with the expectation of gaining more research and scientific skills, which I did, but I also gained skills that can benefit me even outside just research.