

Kalu Obasi

## Research Project Summary

My involvement in this research program began in early June, when my mother sent me the details of a certain agricultural experiment taking place over the summer. I spent the next few weeks working with a team of graduate students and faculty at UNL, as well as several other high school students from across Nebraska, to coordinate and carry out research on maize and sorghum samples. We began by planting these two crops across four cultivars, with six individual plants per cultivar. The early stages of the project were rather simple; we recorded the physical traits of each plant, namely their height, base stem circumference, and leaf count. We made sure to water them on a regular basis, accounting for rain and other factors as they presented themselves. As the project winded down, we collected root samples from each cultivar to be sent back to the UNL researchers for processing and data analysis.

Overall, I found the research project rather interesting and enjoyable. The mentors were always very helpful and responsive, especially considering many of us had not participated in this sort of project before. I have always had a great interest in science and biology, and as a result, I became more and more invested in my work as the weeks progressed. I learned quite a lot about plant biology and chemistry that I had not previously known, and I greatly appreciated the chance to gain new knowledge about the world. Upon the completion of the project, I talked about my experience with my chemistry teacher at school, who was more than delighted to hear about the work that I had done. What started as a simple summer project became an incredibly positive experience for me, and I am very grateful for the opportunity to be a part of it.