

Shwetha Kunnam

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EDUCATION

California Institute of Technology

B.S in Electrical Engineering, Minor in Information and Data Sciences

Pasadena, CA

2019 – Present

Montgomery Blair High School

Science, Mathematics, and Computer Science Magnet Program

Silver Spring, MD

2015 – 2019

EXPERIENCE

Distributed Organizing Intern

Summer/Fall 2020

Paula Jean Swearengin Campaign

- Organized texting and calling shifts for Paula Jean Swearengin, candidate for West Virginia US Senator
- Co-managed a team of over 200 texters and organized bi-weekly phonebanks and trainings of up to 50 volunteers
- Created texting scripts and took care of texter and voter concerns, communicating with difficult voters civilly and crafting effective responses to voter and texter queries
- Completed tasks including volunteer recruitment and administrative work for campaign events

Camp Counselor

Summer 2019

Mad Science

- Worked with 15-30 elementary school students each week at a science summer camp
- Introduced principles such as Newton's Laws to campers through fun and informative demonstrations and projects
- Created relevant scientific activities after exhausting the camp material
- Dealt with camp emergencies and camper needs

Intern

Summer 2018

University of Maryland, Baltimore County

- Used XPPAUT to develop a novel model of the pancreatic beta cell, adding a PKA-cAMP-Calcium feedback loop to the existing Dual Oscillator Model
- The model's results were compared to experimental data and other beta cell models
- Project presented at Montgomery County Science Fair

Intern

Summer 2017

National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases

- Assisted with ongoing studies, including the Federal Women's Study
- Completed a biostatistics project where the accuracy and reproducibility of diagnostic methods for pre-diabetes were compared, reasons for the differences were identified, and preliminary diagnostic recommendations were made
- Project was presented at the 2018 Pediatric Academic Societies Meeting and published in *Pediatric Obesity*

PROJECTS

FRC Team 449 | Vice President of Communications

2015 – 2019

- Expanded the team's community outreach program from 2 events a year to over 40, including science fair demonstrations, school assemblies, workshops, and programming classes
- Raised the annual budget by 100%, to \$40,000, by applying for grants, fundraising, and sending donation requests
- Edited and co-wrote 10-14 grant applications a year, and showed members how to seek out and write grants
- Pitched and co-organized Chesapeake Bunnybots, an annual competition to facilitate training of novice members

March Madness Model

Winter/Spring 2019

- Co-created a multiple regression model to predict the results of the 2019 NCAA March Madness Tournament
- Entered model into Kaggle's March Madness ML competition under team name *thankunet*
- Placed 33rd out of 866 teams, including teams consisting of graduate students and industry professionals

2018 House Midterm Model

Fall/Winter 2019

- Assisted in the creation of a model to predict the 2018 House of Representatives elections
- Co-wrote a blog post on whether the predicted surge in Democratic seats was an anomaly or not
- Predictions were on par with experts, our model predicted 19 seats incorrectly, as opposed to 538's 12 missed calls

SKILLS

Programming Languages: Python, R, Stata, Matlab, Java, HTML, CSS, Javascript, L^AT_EX