

Randall Harper Research Award

Over the past three years I have been lucky enough to be involved in 4 different research projects with Dr. Gupta as well as assisted her other students on their projects. More specifically, I performed temperature dependent I-V measurements, Transmission Electron Microscopy imaging (TEM) as well as tomography, Raman mapping, Scanning Electrochemical Microscopy, Small Angle X-Ray Diffraction and various other measurements. Being so young, I have been blessed that Dr. Gupta and the Department has given me the opportunity to be exposed to this kind of experience and guide me in what I want to achieve in life.

In terms of presenting, I have been able to hone not only my public speaking skills but also my understanding and ability to convey what I've learned through my research experience to others. It is theorized that one of the key parts of learning is being able to teach others what you have learned. Going to these conferences have allowed me to meet other students who share the same interest and fascination with physics as I have and make connections with researchers and professors from across the states. Presenting also gives me what I lost when I left high school; friendly competition. I always enjoy bettering myself and I love it when I can see the results of this. Placing in a poster presentation competition ignites a competitive fire within me to do the best I can and really invigorates me to keep striving to do better.

In conclusion, being a part of research within the Department of Physics and Astronomy has done nothing but excel my grasp on the concepts learned in the classroom. As I continue down this path of physics, I hope that I will remain in a research environment and I am able to keep growing these skills that have already been established as well as developing new skills as I dive into more difficult subjects. Research has given me both the opportunity and skills to excel moving forward in my academic, and hopefully someday professional, career, that I cannot get anywhere else.