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Aises Conference Essay

10/5/18

Honestly at first I thought nothing of this at all. I didn't want to come until my mother sat down next to me and wanted to talk about it. She told me "go, go with your sister on that trip." I asked my mom "why should I go? I am most likely too young to do it." My Mothers reply was "do you know how well that would look on your resume? Collages everywhere would be impressed you tried to go somewhere, and looked." This was honestly the only reason why I decided to come.

I came from West Virginia, on a plane to Charlotte, North Carolina we switched planes to fly into Oklahoma City. My sister Mira and I arrived at eleven thirty pm to twelve am. Our grandmother picked us up from the airport. Once we all walked in the hotel we were amazed to see the astounding place. Our mother only gave my sister and me twenty dollars to spend. I was furious to find out my sister and I only have twenty dollars apiece to spend on the entire trip. I soon let the thought go, I wasn't going to let one thing ruin this opportunity. I grew a large appetite, my grandmother was nice enough to give Mira and I some change. I found a frozen television dinner in the hotel snack room. Once we found ourselves full I decided to clean myself up and rest for the next day.

When my alarm at six am woke me up, Michelle had sent a text message to Mira saying "Yall don't have to be ready eating breakfast until eight thirty since yall came in so late." My eyes were peeled, my mind was running a mile a minute. There was no way I could even think about sleeping now, although we all got only five hours of sleep. So I put on some makeup after I got dressed. I was starving as I headed downstairs to find myself eating ravenously. Michelle asked both my sister and I what exactly we expected. I replied "I have no idea, I feel like this either could be hands on or just sitting, listening and learning."

All of us were dressed casually walking three blocks down to a conference building. It was about eighty degrees outside while raining on us. We were told this would be hosted in a ballroom, I was surprised, I didn't think a Native American conference would be hosted inside of a ballroom. This place was enormous, each floor had fancy rugs and old fashioned wall paper. It smelt like dust and perfume, this was a three story ballroom. We rode the elevator up as we looked around to see fifty tables with chairs around each table. With rows of chairs, more than I could count. My only thoughts were this place is bigger than I could imagine, I grew very anxious to listen and find out more information about my possible future.

Michelle holly, her daughter Cheyenne, Mira and I all luckily found seats next to one another. A man in a suit and tie was upon the large stage in the front center of the room. He was a Native American man who called up about two or three groups of five members who sat on stage and talked about their motivation and experiences in their career. All of them gave very inspirational advice about stem. This was an American Indian science and engineering society. We all watched a couple of videos about why this program is good and how we could change the world. After the videos a group of people went on stage and represented different regions of the United States. Each representative asked the audience to stand up from the region and make some noise! So their region could win a spirit stick. Soon after that different awards were given out to the collages. There was several different regions and in those Michelle, Cheyenne, Mira, and I were a part of the forth region. It was super fun standing to scream, shout and clap really loud. Although we may not have won it wasn't quite fair either considering we were way out numbered, I still had fun.

The first Native American astronaut came on the stage talking about his wife who had died from cancer. She was the one who had given his three ways to make anything possible. These three things were passion, motivation, persistence, and in the end u have success. With these exact characteristics anything is mentally possible.

When the time became twelve pm the directors asked all the students to sit at the tables. I didn't know a few of the people but I didn't care, there was food! We got a plate of fancy looking white chocolates, Mira was about to pick one up to try it until Michelle had stopped her. The things were truly butter! Although salad came first, the desert was next. Sadly I ruined my salad by eating the delicious chocolate cake right after. Then a soup came for us, it was a creamy version of corn stew. I personally wasn't a fan of it, but for Native Americans it is polite to eat even a couple of bites of what you are served. After that I pushed all my dirty dishes to the center of the table as everyone else did too, we stacked them so it would be easy for the staff to clean up. We were given one goody bag per table. When it was time to open it we found a microfiber cloth, safety glasses, sticky notes, a roll of packing tape, ear plugs and command hooks with band aids. Everyone looked around the table wondering who team leader should be, we all agreed on Cheyenne holly. Although she soon went to the restroom, Mira threw out an idea which was a dam to conserve water. We all took it into consideration, we soon started using the materials we had to construct for a model of a dam. One of the elders looked at me and asked "so, how is this dam going to be powered?" I suggested a hydro water turbine to be connected to the dam to power it. I soon questioned myself thinking, what could we do with the left over water? It came to me, we could use a filter to clean the dirty water and turn it into drinking water for the world! The man questioned me once more "How would this water filter be powered?" I answered confidently "solar power!"

We figured out we only had forty minutes to construct this water turbine powered dam to conserve water, use solar power and a water filter. We rushed as we grew closer to the end, we made it! One of the directors asked one person from each group to come share out project with the audience. I was having a hard time trying to convince Cheyenne holly to get confidence so we can get to the front to share. When she finally said fine. I rushed over with our project soon realizing we did more than any other group. We should've only done the dam but instead we did more. I felt very proud until we were handed the microphone. Cheyenne and Mira grew stage fright, knowing we are here standing with professors, and college students while they were looking right at us. I told Mira to get it together on stage while she started to laugh. Cheyenne laughed and we teased Mira. We started to walk back to our table thinking it's over but Michelle turned us around saying "yall aren't done yet, get back up there!"

We soon found out this is a student orientation and there is a plan to all this which is call to order, prayer, with welcome and introductions. The Aises director of membership and communications is Lisa Paz. There were an opening of remarks from the United States navy lieutenant William L. Harber. He is apart of a diversity director navy recruiting command. He was telling us how we all need to keep our childlike curiosity. Ask questions when we need to know. Knowledge is everything here, we need to seek understanding. Look at the past and do better, honor the past but also focus on the future. Get involved, and meet new people, make new friends. This spoke to me loudly. I knew the navy or the military wasn't for me and that's okay. Still this was true, and deeply meaningful to me. This has been all my life. How I would look at my family's mistakes and I'd try to do better even when I didn't know, how I'd just ask.

The meeting was over after that, we were all so hungry. We went to an authentic Mexican restaurant, where the food was absolutely divine. I had the chicken and cheese Quesada with a side of rice and beans. It was possibly the best Mexican food I've acquired. When we ate and got fat and happy we decided to walk back to the hotel. We all went to our rooms to do whatever it was we needed. Mira and I went down to the pool to take a swim, which was so much fun. We played water basketball, and found a beach ball then we played a bit of aquatic volleyball. I'm not very good at those two sports but I enjoyed spending time with my sister. Cheyenne and Michelle walked in on us playing around when she asked "do u girls want to get cleaned up and hit the town for a walk?" Mira and I looked at each other as we gladly replied with "Yes". As we walked around looking for something fun to do we eventually came across mini gulf. Michelle was very nice and payed for both Mira and I. We had fun as we talked and laughed together. When we finished our game we found the arcade. Michelle payed for us again! We played skee ball and threw balls at clowns to knock them over. We had a good time as we ate Sonic on our way back to the hotel.

I took my shower prepared for the next day and I was out like a light. When my alarm woke me again we got another text from Michelle saying we don't have to be ready until twelve pm. So

Mira and I took our time getting ready and eating breakfast. When we all met back at Michelle's and Cheyenne's room, they told us we were going to a collage fair so be prepared to ask questions and take flyers, gain all the information. We walked there as Mira and I walked around asking almost all of the stands about their collages, companies or stems with what they had to offer. When Mira and I showed up I was ignored and even turned away by most of them considering how young I am. There was about two or three collages that took their time to actually talk with me and let me ask questions. I enjoyed those the most. I didn't see much of medical although I do realize this is for science and engineering. When we were all worn out and done with the day we decided to go back to the hotel room after meeting with our grandmother to eat dinner. The next day we all packed up and now we are back home.

In all I enjoyed this program, I did have a lot of fun and I realize this is not just something you go to just to put on your resume. You are here to learn, listen and gain all the information you possibly can so you know just what to expect in the real world. I was blessed by the creator to be here and I thank everyone who helped me get here. I can't imagine the boredom I would've went through this weekend if I hadn't had come here. Everyone has so many opportunities that they don't see and if you are able to take something this like I suggest anyone to go. This was truly amazing and it will be to anyone who comes along.