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Aises Conference Essay

10/5/18

I was on the plane headed to Charlotte, North Carolina from BWI airport Baltimore, Maryland. Once I got into North Carolina, we switched planes to head to Oklahoma City. I was thinking about what it would be like at this conference on the plane. I thought there would be mentors talking about what their careers are like and helpful tips for becoming successful. Then there would be videos on different topics that involved science and engineering. Maybe some hands on experience so everyone could mentally understand what we were trying to learn.

When we stepped into that conference room at 8:00 am, my mind was blown at how big the whole place was. Apparently it was the size of a ball room, which I wasn't expecting. There was a humungous stage in the middle of the room and it was filled with fifty tables on one side while the other side was with more chairs in rows than I could count; every butt was filled in each chair. I was astounded at the fact that there was that many people going to a stem conference every year. This was my first time, and I wasn't thinking it was going to be my last.

When the main person on stage started to speak I could hear the intellect from his thoughts rolling off of his tongue. I was shocked at the fact that hundreds of people from all over the country were so incredibly brilliant, and were willing to be a part of this huge event. I was ecstatic to take notes and adhere to everyone's experiences. As I took in the inventive ideas of the five mentors of each group that sat upon the stage. I realized that I'm only a senior in high school, and that I felt blessed to be here with people older than me who were skillful at their work.

As the conference went on we watched some short videos about Native Americans who were teaching children the process of science and engineering. It was pretty interesting how they made it fun for the children. After the videos were finished, regional directors came on stage and asked each region they represented to stand up and make some noise. The regions of the United States that presented the most noise won the spirit stick. After the spirit stick was given out to the winner, they presented awards to different groups from different tribes and colleges. As the groups went on stage to receive their awards they got to take pictures for the Aises website. Then the first Native American to go up into space from NASA went on stage and talked about his adventures. He said if we are passionate, persistent, motivated and with success in mind anything is possible.

When he was finished more than half of the people left the room. We went to sit at the round tables on the other side of the room. We were served brunch, first with a white candy looking treat. Cora and I looked at this uneasily and wondered if we should try it. I was about to pick it up, then Michelle told me that it was butter. I laughed and said “that’s the fanciest butter I’ve ever seen.” After my discomfort remark was over, we were served salads that were incredibly delectable. Followed by desert, soup, bread, and the main course. Each item of food that came had a pretty long interval in between. I looked to the lady on my right and said “we’ll I guess my healthy salad doesn’t count now since I had desert right after words...” She just laughed at me while I was laughing.

We were handed a goody bag that we weren’t allowed to open until the time came. After talking with everyone at my table, a lady on stage started to announce, “Does everyone have a goody bag on their table? If anyone doesn’t let me know now.” No one replied to her remark, she said “alright then, now those goody bags contain a bunch of items that each table needs to put together and has to contain at least one element to help the environment. Now it has to be a unique gizmo that no one has ever witnessed. Good luck, you will get about twenty five minutes to complete this and you will need to bring your item from your table up to the stage and we’ll talk about it. On your mark, get set, go!”. We dumped open the bag, that contained some unusual items. As in sticky notes, band aids, tape, cloth, protective safety glasses, ear bud things, command hooks, and emoji sticky notes.

We were all profound at the site of these inquiring items, then decided that there needs to be a group leader. Everyone picked on Cheyenne Holley, then everyone around the table thought about ways we could help the environment. We thought what would be a good way to conserve water? I brought up the idea of a dam, the table seemed to like the concept. As we went on talking Cora had a thought of a hydro water turbine. Every piece of the puzzle we were solving was falling into place. Cora and I with a couple of the people at our table helped construct our idea into reality.

After the construction was complete we were proud of our accomplishment. The lady called all the participants onto the stage to share what we had. Cheyenne, Cora and I went up to the front with all of the other forty nine participants. Judging by everyone else’s work, I personally feel that we put a lot more effort into our project compared to the college students. When we were up at the front of the room, Michelle told us to go in front and tell the guy with the microphone what we made and how it works. We walked over to the front after Cora convinced Cheyenne to come with us. Once we were there trying to talk with the guy, the guy said “so you all made something but can’t explain it?” I had an incident where I got stage fright and Cora told me to “get it together Mira,” as I laughed tremendously. When that was over, we were about to walk back to our table

at the back of the room. Then we were told that we needed to stand in the front of the room still. I was a little embarrassed but still laughing about it, while Cheyenne and Cora teased me. Our project had 3 designs that were incorporated instead of just one. The people that participated were put into a contest and had to leave their names on the instructions paper and leave it on stage underneath what they built. I have confidence that we are going to place, no doubt about it.

As we all left the stage, we got our stuff and walked to a local Mexican restaurant. The food was exquisite, I highly recommend it; if you would like to know the name of this fabulous eatery ask either Michelle or Cheyenne Holley because they suggested it. After becoming fat and happy with myself, I waddled back to the hotel to relax. After some tranquility Cora and I decided to hop in the indoor pool down stairs on the first floor. We were peacefully in the pool for about half an hour before Michelle and Cheyenne said they wanted to go out on the town. After going back up stairs and getting dressed we strolled down town Brick town. We played mini golf and went for a late night snack at Sonic before returning to the hotel.

The next day we relaxed in our hotel rooms until about 10:30 am before we went down stairs for breakfast. Now let me clue you in on something, if you ever come to Brick town's Hampton Inn they have the best variety for breakfast foods and all of the food is scrumptious. Then we headed back upstairs to repose some more until about noon before we headed down to the college fair dressed all formal. When we were walking to the college fair my feet were hurting already and I knew it was definitely going to get worse.

When we walked into the college fair I was surprised at how ginormous the whole fair was. There was many aisles with rows upon rows of colleges, careers, insurance, scholarships and so forth. Now the guy with the microphone on the first day also mentioned if we talked with the people at each booth and made eye contact with them those people would give us tickets. The tickets meant that at the end of the day they would do a drawing and whoever got picked won really cool prizes. Either way I didn't mind getting tickets or not because I was still going to talk with these people and gain more information about their programs. What I was disappointed about was that there wasn't many medical programs for me to look at. I understand that it was basically for stem but I would like to definitely seen more medical opportunities to choose from. I still had an amazing time after attending this college fair. There was many diverse stands that were wanting people to explore their programs.

(When you talk to people you always gain knowledge out of what questions you ask.) (Always be yourself, don't be afraid of the mentors. They have been where we are and are here to guide us!) (We need to keep childlike curiosity. Ask questions when we need to know. Knowledge is everything here. Seek understanding. Look at the past and do better, honor the past but also focus on the future. Get involved. Professional dress, professional behavior, and participation. Make

eye contact. Never look at Ur phone. Meet new people.) These sentences with parenthesis that I put I took to heart when I heard them. I can't stop appreciating the experience that the Delaware tribe and all the sponsors allowed for me. I definitely hope I can do this next year with more people involved. I can honestly say that if more new people join they will enjoy themselves as much as I did.