CORNERSTONE SCHOOLS

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With You. For Life.

An Unforgettable Summer Experience for Two Cornerstone Students

Denise Lawrence & Justice Rumbley

The Lives Improved Through Engineering (LITE) summer camp hosted by Kettering University in Flint Michigan, is a two-week residential program for young women interested in STEM fields (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math). The selection process is rigorous and each summer camp accepts only 36 students from all over the country. In July of 2018, two young women from Cornerstone Health + Technology High School were accepted to the LITE camp, Denise Lawrence and Justice Rumbley.

Denise and Justice each came to their interest in STEM fields in different ways. Denise has spent her entire high school career at Cornerstone and, during her junior year, a Cornerstone Career Pathways internship with Deloitte sparked her interest in electrical engineering. Justice is most interested in agricultural engineering and was accepted to the LITE camp because of her success as a Career Pathways intern with OHM Advisors in her junior year. Both began their senior year in September 2018 and had good things to say about their summer experiences at the Kettering University camp.

"It felt like a real college experience because we had to move into the dorms for the whole two weeks and we couldn't go home over the weekend. The only person I knew was Justice, so I had to talk to new people," Denise stated.

"At first, I didn't know if I wanted to stay there because it seemed so far from home, but I was happy that I knew Denise so at least there was one person that was familiar", Justice continued. "It really isn't that far from home and our parents helped us set our rooms up," Denise adds.

Justice explains the experience further, "We had a safety class, a bio/chem class, and several other classes Monday through Friday. Then on the weekend we had team activities. One Saturday the group went to Michigan's Adventure Amusement Park. We also had team time and had a chance to interact with the other camp of international students that were also staying at Kettering."

"Yes, and we did this project where we had to install a child's car seat properly, that was my favorite project," Denise interjects. "We also went to the Ford plant to see how it operates and what different people do in their jobs there every day, and I really liked that."

"Everything is moving so fast through technology, so it is an exciting field to get into," Denise smiles as she continues to share what she learned from her time at Kettering. "I felt like I was challenged and we were busy all day."

Denise and Justice say their experience at the camp helped them see what college life might be like, but it also gave them a taste of their potential futures in the industries they are pursuing.

Justice points out, "Without the things I learned through Career Pathways, I wouldn't have been as prepared for the camp."

"Even talking to new people is something we learned about in Career Pathways", Denise adds. "Cornerstone taught me about entrepreneurship, opportunities for my future, and even just basic life things like credit cards, how to pay for school, and how to manage a schedule."

"I am glad that I went," Denise says. "I am now looking at applying to Kettering for college."

"Me too," says Justice. "I am thankful to my principal, Mr. Davis, for suggesting that I do the camp because I didn't know anything about it before then. Cornerstone has helped me figure out what I'm going to do after high school."