

NEWS RELEASE

Genesee Community College

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Office of Development and External Affairs

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TOP Scholarship Student from Genesee Completes Internship at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

Fall 2008 TOP Funds Still Available

Batavia, New York—TOP is an acronym for Technology Opportunity Pathway, and the TOP scholarship was indeed a pathway for Sarina Dorazio, a former Genesee Community College Student. After receiving the TOP scholarship, Sarina was selected as a U.S. Department of Energy summer intern in the 2007 Community College Institute (CCI) in Science and Engineering at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) in Richland, WA. From there, she has moved on to begin studying for her PhD at the University at Buffalo.

Sarina's success began when she was awarded the TOP Scholarship at Genesee Community College, which continues to support talented students who are pursuing degrees in computer science, engineering, mathematics, and related fields. While a student at Genesee, Sarina participated in the CCI program, which places students from community colleges in paid, 10-week internships in Science, Engineering, and Technology.

Sarina was placed at PNNL, one of the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) ten national laboratories, managed by the DOE's Office of Science. PNNL also performs research for other DOE offices as well as government agencies, universities, and industry to deliver breakthrough science and technology to meet today's key national needs.

During Sarina's internship at PNNL she had the unique opportunity to work with a nationally-renowned scientist who immersed her into a materials engineering project involving the physical properties of glycerol-based deicing solutions. This project will have both economic and environmental impacts on road maintenance and the airline industry. Sarina performed well in her research and provided valuable data for the Laboratory.

"Ms. Dorazio grew academically, vocationally, and in confidence during her summer research appointment," said Royace Aikin, Senior Education Specialist at PNNL. "Faculty and staff at Genesee

Community College can be proud of her accomplishments. We hope to host more Genesee students in the CCI program during future summers.”

Sarina graduated from Genesee Community College in June 2007 with an AS degree in Liberal Arts: Math and Science. She received her BA in Chemistry at the University of Buffalo in May 2008, and has been accepted into the PhD Chemistry program at UB.

“When I applied for the internship, I was still not sure exactly what path I wanted to take for a career,” Sarina said. “After working at PNNL for the summer I decided that I definitely wanted to continue in a science-related field.”

Sarina came back to Genesee recently to attend the SUNY CIT conference, where she presented a poster she created as a CCI intern and shared information about the TOP scholarship.

“Genesee Community College laid the foundation for my future career,” Sarina said. “My internship and further education have both built off the concepts I learned at Genesee. The professors at GCC are focused on teaching and everyone there seems like they want to help students in any way possible.”

TOP Scholarship resources are still available for full-time students enrolled this fall in the following programs: math / science; engineering, computer support and operations, computer information systems, computer systems and networking, and computerized drafting.

For further information go to: <http://top.genesee.edu/> or call Ken Mead at 585-343-0055 extension 6381.