

# WISEST Summer Research Program

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## Journal of Student Research 2024



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# Introduction

Each summer, WISEST places 40–50 young women and gender diverse, grade 11 students in a six-week paid internship called the Summer Research Program (SRP). Students are paired with research laboratories and gain experience in fields where their genders are considered underrepresented such as Science, Technology, Engineering or Math (STEM). This year, WISEST was able to place 41 students in various research placements.



2024 marks the 40th year of the SRP! Over 85% of our program alumni pursue STEM education and careers after participating in the SRP. In addition to the UofA, we have seen students attend academic institutions across Canada and internationally. SRP alumni have been co-authors on peer-reviewed papers, presented at conferences, and received significant awards. In recent years, fourteen alumni have received prestigious national awards including six Schulich Leader Scholarships and two TD Scholars Award.

## Goals of the SRP for our students

- Broaden awareness about underrepresented fields of study and diverse career options.
- Engage with other participants who share similar interests.
- Learn about the techniques and types of research conducted in different STEM fields.
- Connect with and learn from successful professionals in the STEM fields.
- Develop key professional skills.
- Contribute to trailblazing research (in the lab or in the field).
- Become familiar with academic and university life at the University of Alberta.

## Our Volunteers

Our program would not be possible without the Principal Investigators who invite these students into their research, the Supervisors and Research Team Members who provide mentorship and support for the students throughout the program, and the volunteers who support our Professional Development Sessions. In 2024, 256 different people gave 6,800 hours of their time to support this program.

# Thank You to Our 2024 Funders:

## We are a donor and volunteer-driven Community of Catalysts!

Although based on the U of A campus, WISEST relies almost completely on donations from corporations, foundations, individuals and the public sector to develop and deliver our innovative programs.

Thank you to



## WISEST Industry Alliance

Also thank you to the charter members of the newly formed WISEST Industry Alliance. Capital Engineering, Graham Construction, PCL Construction Management, DIALOG, the Edmonton Space and Science Foundation, ISL Engineering, TELUS, AECOM, Osprey Scientific, Clark Builders, Associated Engineering, Rotary - Riverview, and Lafarge.



Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry  
Faculty of Engineering  
Faculty of Science  
Faculty of ALES  
Faculty of Arts



# The Spirit of Dr. Armour Award

WISEST created the “**Spirit of Dr. Armour Award**” in 2019, to honour individuals whose spirit and enthusiasm for diversity in STEM is genuine, infectious and intentional. Dr. Margaret-Ann Armour dedicated her life and career to diversity and the advancement of women in the sciences. But more fundamentally, she dedicated her spirit and her passion to people. She became a beloved member of numerous groups and networks through her genuine enthusiasm for individuals and sincere belief in the power of community. She loved people and people loved her back.

*“I give you my greatest wish - to go meet your dreams”*

## The Advocate Award

This award is presented to a principal investigator or supervisor, who through their participation in the Summer Research Program has shown advocacy in creating a more diverse STEM community.

## SRP Student Award

This award is presented to a grade 11 student, who, through their participation in the Summer Research Program has shown: a genuine interest and passion in pursuing a STEM education, leadership and engaged participation in all the SRP program offers, collaborative interactions with other SRP participants, PIs, graduate students, WISEST staff, and the lab staff, an innovative and creative problem-solving approach and demonstrated resilience in overcoming barriers and obstacles.



WISEST would like to recognize:  
**Dr. Ahmed Samir Ead (advocate)**  
&  
**Svetlana Hricko (student)**  
with the Dr. Armour Spirit Awards.



**Ahmed Samir Ead**



**Svetlana Hricko**

We also recognize this lab group who created an amazing workplace environment for their students.

**Dr. Lauren's Guillette's Lab: Animal Cognition Research Group (ACRG)**



# The Summer Program

The WISEST Summer Research Program is more than just a summer job. The program calendar is full of events, sessions and opportunities that allow the students to grow professionally, meet incredible mentors and build a like-minded community of peers.

## Orientation

The program began with a full day of orientation to the program and to campus. This day included introductions from staff, introduction to the University of Alberta Library system, Campus Tours and a panel discussion with WISEST SRP Alums to receive advice and encouragement.

***“Orientation was very exciting because I love new things, and learning about what was going to happen during the program made me extra eager to start.”***

***“WISEST orientation was the first memories, first impressions and the beginning of what would be an amazing summer.”***





## Professional Development

Each week, WISEST students meet to develop new skills and learn more about various science, engineering and technology career and/or education fields.

This year's professional development sessions included: Let's Talk EDI, Group Norms & Communication Styles, Lunch Affinity Groups, Dream Big, How to do a Research Poster, The Art of Networking, Allyship & Solidarity, Science Communication Tips & Strategies, Strength-Based Success, Project Feedback, Networking Fair & Mentor Meet Up, Subjectivity in Science, Setting Up for Success in University, Sharing the WISEST Experience, Resume & Cover Letter & Interview & LinkedIn Workshop, and Practice Presenting Session & Feedback. In addition to the professional development sessions, WISEST also ran an optional Media Club, where a topic was introduced weekly, related media was shared and students were invited to participate in discussions. These discussions were rich, generative and powerful, and topical, relating to many of the challenges and issues that STEM is confronted with in this day and age.

***"These PD sessions helped me learn a lot about myself, others and about my future. It made me think about the possibilities of my future, what to expect and prepared me for what to come."***

***"There were areas in which I had struggled with previously, and through the PDs, I found how I best operate when doing the specific tasks, and found that I learned the most there."***

***"I found it very empowering and it opened my mind to things I have not thought of before. The conversations that we had were very meaningful and carried a lot of impact."***

## Mentorship and Role Models

The Summer Research Program students have many opportunities to meet and network with a wide variety of STEM students and professionals at all stages of their academic and professional journeys. Students participated in two virtual role model panel sessions, a entrepreneurship focused role model panel, a networking mixer, as well as role model sessions tailored to racialized students in STEM and 2SLGBTQIA+ students in STEM. Additionally, each student was matched with an alum from a previous program for additional mentorship and support.

***"I absolutely love talking to people that come from such diverse backgrounds. It's so refreshing."***

***"It was very inspiring to see so many women and gender diverse people in high ranking positions."***

***"I had a great time chatting with all the mentors and getting to hear their stories. Many of my questions got answered and I feel more confident now about what aspects of my future will look like."***



## On Campus and Industry Tours

In addition to their own research labs, students were given opportunities to meet lab teams in other faculties and departments and tour these facilities. Additionally, students were taken to the U of A Innovation Centre, Gilead Sciences, ATCO and Syncrude Research Lab as a way of seeing how STEM can be done in Industry settings.

***“One thing I really enjoyed about our tour is that they let us approach any lab member to ask them about the projects they were working on.”***

***“I liked being able to see examples of companies that I could find working at myself one day.”***

***“I really enjoyed getting to see people in different industries using their love of science in their everyday job.”***



## Social Events

In an effort to build a cohesive and supportive cohort and community, WISEST hosted several social events over the course of the summer. The program first kicked off with a Scavenger Hunt designed to acquaint students with campus. These fun-filled events dedicate time for students to unwind after work and meet each other in a more informal and casual setting. Other social events included an SRP Heritage Day, Paint Night, Liquid Nitrogen Ice Cream, Board Games & Socializing, Karaoke & Escape room, a Bubble Tea Night night with WISEST's sister networks, WiSER and UA-WiSE. The six-week program culminated in the See Ya Later banquet, with food, photos, shared memories, and student-led entertainment.

***“My favourite social event was the See ya Later, as it provided the students with an opportunity to have a final chance at connection, allowed us to look back on our success and struggles, and created a finalized sense of unity.”***

***“Karaoke, it really bonded our cohort and broke down any remaining barriers or shyness.”***

***“SRP Heritage Days: Being immersed in a variety of different cultures and getting to eat the yummiest food ever made my heart feel so full.”***





## Research and Celebration of Research

Each student was placed in a STEM research lab. The student's experiences, while unique to each project entailed things like working with lab members, learning specific skills such as coding, gel electrophoresis, data analysis, effective communication of results, among so many others. Each student created a final poster that encapsulated their project, and these were presented to friends, family, dignitaries, research teams, teachers and the general public on the final day of the program.

***"The Celebration of Research made me feel so seen and so heard, and filled me with gratitude for the past six weeks. I have never, ever felt so included in a space for academia and research."***

***"Even though it was really sad because the program was coming to an end, seeing and reflecting on our growth and how everyone was shining so brightly after the realization that we've all completed an entire research poster, it felt like a new unique emotion that we will get to experience regularly in university as we fulfill all our passions and dreams!"***

***"Sharing memories and reflections with peers and mentors during this event was particularly meaningful, as it highlighted the growth and connections we made throughout the program."***



## Residence

Students from outside the Edmonton region stayed on campus in the St. Joseph's College dormitory. Students living in residence create a close-knit community through their shared experiences, and together they explore all Edmonton has to offer while participating in numerous fun social activities.

***"Everyone is just so inviting and kind and it's a great group of people. I also love getting to live on campus as it provides an even better experience with WISEST!"***

***"Getting to live in residence is basically like a six-week sleepover. I made a lot of good friendships there and a lot of fun memories."***

***"My favourite memory would have to be the night everyone came back to residence after the See Ya Later and cried together. It was amazing, yet sad, to remember our whole summer and the connections we made."***





# Our SRP Students Researchers

Take a moment to meet our SRP Students and let their enthusiasm and reflections on their experience inspire you. These capable young people are building a strong foundation for their future success, contributing to a stronger STEM community, and preparing to change the world.



# Madison Armstrong

**High School** Lumsden High School

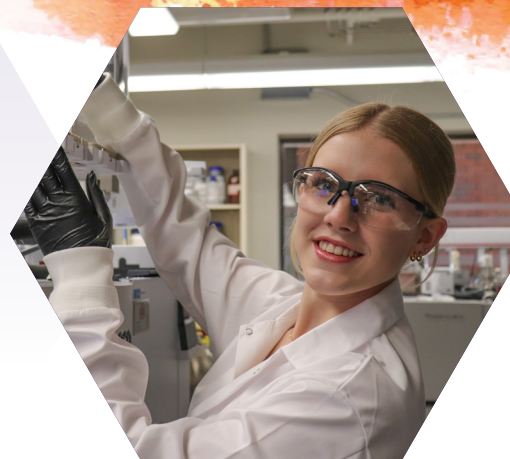
**Town** Lumsden, Saskatchewan

**Lab Placement** Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science

**Project Title** Analysis of Third-Hand Exposure of Cannabis and Tobacco Smoke to Cotton and Polyester Fabrics Using SPME-GCxGC-TOFMS

**Final Project** <https://doi.org/10.7939/r3-datq-3n39>

**Supporter** Canada Summer Jobs, Harynuk Lab and WISEST



## Describe the impact finding a like-minded community had for you.

I come from a small town like many other people in the program. Finding this beautiful community of like-minded individuals was very validating and made me feel like I am not the only one who is a high achiever, and one who has a love for mathematics and the sciences. This helped me build confidence and a support group, who I will keep in touch with for years to come.

## What was the best part about residence?

Residence helped create even stronger bonds within the cohort which was extremely helpful being so far away from home. Everyone was so welcoming and helpful from my fellow residents in the cohort to the RA's. The community made not only in the cohort but in residence helped make this opportunity have an even stronger impact on my experience with WISEST.



# Gift Azubuike

**High School** Archbishop MacDonald High School

**Town** Edmonton, Alberta

**Lab Placement** Department of Psychology, Faculty of Science

**Project Title** Cracking The Avian Code: Analyzing Stereotypic Behaviour in Black-capped Chickadees

**Final Project** <https://doi.org/10.7939/r3-p42z-5p33>

**Supporter** Canada Summer Jobs, Sturdy Lab and Beta Sigma Phi

## Talk about another part of the program that was meaningful to you.

I will forever be grateful for the Racialized/BIPOC/ Indigenous Affinity group in the WISEST Program. I loved being a part of a community in which everyone was able to share similar lived experiences and provide support for each other through group talks, role model sessions, and bonding outside of the workplace. Honestly, this group was my home away from home.

## What is something you want future SRP students to know?

I want the future SRP students to know that you are the only person that is able to define your future, and the negative mindsets of others around you cannot, will not, and should not be a concern of yours. The person that benefits the most from whatever career and choice you choose to make about your future is YOU, and that should always be the standard.

# Christelle Bakwere

**High School** Holy Trinity Catholic High School

**Town** Edmonton, Alberta

**Lab Placement** Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering,  
Faculty of Engineering

**Project Title** Exploring the Future: Enhancing Construction with Digital Twins

**Final Project** <https://doi.org/10.7939/r3-bb3m-6t17>

**Supporter** Canada Summer Jobs and Rotary Club Glenora



## **Describe a panel or networking session that had a profound impact on you and your STEM trajectory.**

The Networking Fair had a profound impact on me. It showed me how all the different women and gender diverse people had built their careers in STEM. Despite any challenges they might have faced, they overcame it, and to this day, they are still fighting to make changes. It also showed me how much support I have. All the people I met only had good intentions, were willing to answer all my questions, and listened to me fully. The Networking Fair

demonstrated to me that I not only have a chance in STEM, but I can build an entire career in STEM.

## **What is something you want future SRP students to know?**

You're so worthy of being in this program. Don't miss any events if you can and take full advantage of this rare opportunity. Make friends and connections that can last a lifetime. Above all, have fun and experiment to find yourself.



# Avery Baldwin

**High School** Harry Ainlay High School

**Town** Edmonton, Alberta

**Lab Placement** Department of Psychology, Faculty of Science

**Project Title** Who's the boss? Females' impact on males' nest-building behaviour in zebra finches

**Final Project** <https://doi.org/10.7939/r3-2v75-fp14>

**Supporter** Canada Summer Jobs and Beta Sigma Phi

## **Describe how you felt when you were accepted into the program. How has that changed throughout the program?**

When first getting accepted, I couldn't believe it. I questioned whether I deserved to be in this program because I felt that everyone was smarter and more suited to the program than me. I soon found that everyone has a place in WISEST and that every individual brings something unique to the program.

## **Say thank you to someone who had an impact on you this summer.**

I would like to say thank you to my entire lab for creating such a welcoming environment. Before starting the program, I thought my WISEST experience would only be about science, but while working with my lab, I learned about the importance of collaboration and building a strong community amongst coworkers. Everyone in the lab eagerly answered my questions and helped me navigate any issues I may have encountered.



# Daisy Butterfield

**High School** Lacombe Composite High School

**Town** Lacombe, Alberta

**Lab Placement** Department of Mechanical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering

**Project Title** Softball Safety: Mitigating Concussion Risks with Reinforced Fielders Masks

**Final Project** <https://doi.org/10.7939/r3-y5kk-w298>

**Supporter** Canada Summer Jobs and Motorola Solutions Foundation

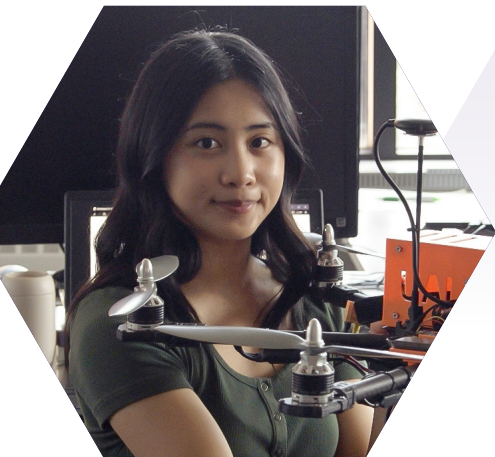


**Describe a Professional Development session that you gained new insight or learned from. What will you take away from it into the future?**

I learned a lot from the Art of Networking professional development session. It made me feel more confident when talking to people who are multiple degrees and a boatload of experience ahead of me. It made me realize that in those situations, I have a lot of great qualities too, and that the people I network with are genuinely there to help and support me on my journey.

**What is something you want future SRP students to know?**

You don't need to have it all figured out right now. Before this program, I remember being confused about how, at 16 years old, I was supposed to decide what to do for the rest of my life. Now, I realize that you can change your mind all the time, and that is so normal, and just part of being human.



# Mandy Cepeda

**High School** Irma School

**Town** Hardisty, Alberta

**Lab Placement** Department of Mechanical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering

**Project Title** Deployable Robot For Mobile Inspections

**Final Project** <https://doi.org/10.7939/r3-fbrb-ds24>

**Supporter** Canada Summer Jobs and Motorola Solutions Foundation

**Talk about another part of the program that was meaningful to you.**

My affinity group played a huge role in reaffirming my identity and lived-experiences. I was able to access my vulnerability, which I had struggled with prior, and at the same time I was able to uplift, listen, and laugh with a group of diverse individuals that I found a community in.

**Describe a Professional Development session that you gained new insight or learned from. What will you take away from it into the future?**

The Allyship PD Session with a focus on Intersectionality, How to be an Ally, and The Power Wheel of Privilege, will always stay with me wherever I go. After years of feeling isolated and powerless, I was able to connect with individuals who acknowledged and recognized the shared lived experiences we had in common.

# Kaylin Crocker

**High School** Dr. Anne Anderson High School

**Town** Edmonton, Alberta

**Lab Placement** Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering,  
Faculty of Engineering

**Project Title** Calculating Potassium Concentration in Soil using Laser-Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy and Python Data Analysis

**Final Project** <https://doi.org/10.7939/r3-xadk-xa43>

**Supporter** Canada Summer Jobs, Hussein Lab and Motorola Solutions Foundation



## What was the Celebration of Research and/or the See Ya Later like for you?

The Celebration of Research was nerve wracking to think about. However, once the day began and I saw my teachers, all the anxiety washed away and was replaced with confidence about my research. The day was an amazing wrap-up to the program, and I was satisfied with my time in the program by the end.

## What is something you want future SRP students to know?

I know you may think you don't deserve to be here, self doubt often happens. But WISEST picked you for a reason. You have potential, drive, and a love for STEM that is extraordinary, you'll do great, trust me.



# Isabella De Guzman

**High School** St. Mary's Catholic School

**Town** Vegreville, Alberta

**Lab Placement** Department of Psychology, Faculty of Science

**Project Title** Building Nests To Impress: The Impact of Female Zebra Finches on Nest Building

**Final Project** <https://doi.org/10.7939/r3-efp1-eb46>

**Supporter** Canada Summer Jobs and Beta Sigma Phi

## Describe the impact finding a like-minded community had for you.

I could see myself in every single person here, both fellow student researchers and WISEST staff. It fills me with a feeling of such comfort knowing that I am not alone in my journey and I'm so excited to see the world that this community will create.

## What was the best part about residence?

It was like having another family away from home. An adventure would be just down the hall, whether it be spontaneous grocery runs, hanging out in each other's dorms, or just exploring the city together. It's so exciting learning to be independent, and I feel prepared to tackle university life in a year.



# Taylor Derewianka

**High School** Ardrossan Junior Senior High School

**Town** Ardrossan, Alberta

**Lab Placement** Department of Mechanical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering

**Project Title** Robotic Aerial Door Manipulator

**Final Project** <https://doi.org/10.7939/r3-a9ek-am49>

**Supporter** Canada Summer Jobs and Motorola Solutions Foundation



**Describe your favourite social event. Why was this your favourite?**

My favourite social event was the SRP Heritage Days! I learned so much about my cohort's different cultures and got to try so many different traditional foods! This event also opened my eyes to many different cultures I have never known about!

**Say thank you to someone who had an impact on you this summer.**

I would like to give a huge thank you to the Automated Inspection Laboratory for taking the time to make my experience the best it possibly could have been during my time in the program! I learned so much during my time in this lab, and got to experience first-hand what engineering research really looks like! I also truly felt like I belonged and could be myself in this lab, and I owe all of that to my fellow lab members!



# Margareth Escueta

**High School** Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Academy

**Town** Canmore, Alberta

**Lab Placement** Department of Chemical and Materials Engineering, Faculty of Engineering

**Project Title** Safety First! Evaluating the Association of Inspections on Incidents in the Construction Industry Using Data Analytics

**Final Project** <https://doi.org/10.7939/r3-j7d4-yd28>

**Supporter** Canada Summer Jobs, Lefsrud Lab and Beta Sigma Phi

**Describe a Professional Development session that you gained new insight or learned from. What will you take away from it into the future?**

The University PD Session was an absolute lifesaver. I gained so much valuable information on how to prepare for university, as well as insights into scholarships, which initially felt very intimidating to me. However, as the WISEST staff shared their experiences, that overwhelming feeling eased significantly. For myself and everybody else, please choose what you love, it is what keeps your soul on fire and makes Mondays bearable.

**Talk about another part of the program that was meaningful to you.**

One of my favorite parts of the program was the Racialized/BIPOC/Indigenous Students affinity group. It was incredibly refreshing to be represented in a community where the voices of these students are often not amplified. The people were amazing, and this safe space allowed us to be vulnerable while having fun at the same time.

# Izzy Evans

**High School** Eastglen High School

**Town** Edmonton, Alberta

**Lab Placement** Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, Faculty of Science

**Project Title** What can the Proterozoic fossil record reveal about the evolution of early life?

**Final Project** <https://doi.org/10.7939/r3-cj6q-8s63>

**Supporter** Canada Summer Jobs and Beta Sigma Phi



## Describe how you felt during orientation vs. how you feel now.

During orientation I felt like a fish out of water, I didn't know how the next 6 weeks would go and I was assuming I was in over my head. After I started to remember everyone's names and figure out where everything was on campus I realized everyone felt the same as me and I wasn't alone. Looking back now, I have grown smarter, happier, and more confident in myself and my future in STEM. This was really the opportunity of a lifetime.

## What is something you want future SRP students to know?

Step out of our comfort zone! Take that leap of faith! You only have 6 weeks and they really do go by in the blink of an eye so take advantage of every opportunity you have. You never know where they could lead.



# June Fujiwara

**High School** Tempo School

**Town** Edmonton, Alberta

**Lab Placement** Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, Faculty of Science

**Project Title** Using isotope ratios in a giant clam fossil to reveal ancient climate conditions

**Final Project** <https://doi.org/10.7939/r3-9279-qd87>

**Supporter** Canada Summer Jobs and Beta Sigma Phi

## Describe a Professional Development session that you gained new insight or learned from. What will you take away from it into the future?

I found the Subjectivity in Science PD session very valuable. I did not know a lot about the specifics of land acknowledgements, and I appreciate having the opportunity to learn how to be a better ally to the Indigenous community. I now feel much better equipped to write my own personal, meaningful land acknowledgement, and to do my part in helping decolonize the world of STEM.

## Describe your favourite social event. Why was this your favourite.

The social event that stood out most to me was Board Game Night. It was the first of the program, and I think everyone was very excited to get to know each other better, so lots of people attended and the energy was high. We all came out of our shells a little and got to know each other's interests.



# Sia Garg

**High School** Strathcona Composite High School

**Town** Edmonton, Alberta

**Lab Placement** Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Faculty of Engineering

**Project Title** Smart Wearables for Kids: Enhancing Awareness with Haptic and Auditory Cues for Visually-Impaired Children

**Final Project** <https://doi.org/10.7939/r3-zebx-ry33>

**Supporter** Canada Summer Jobs and Motorola Solutions Foundation



## **Describe the impact finding a like-minded community had for you.**

Finding a like-minded community through WISEST has given me a strong sense of belonging and validation in my interests. Being surrounded by others who share my passions and strong sense for advocacy has inspired me to push my boundaries and think creatively. This supportive network has empowered me to embrace challenges and pursue my goals with far more confidence.

## **Talk about another part of the program that was meaningful to you.**

A meaningful part of the WISEST program were the mentor panels. Hearing from professionals who have successfully navigated careers in STEM, particularly those who faced challenges similar to mine, was incredibly inspiring. Their stories and advice provided me with valuable insights I needed, into the diverse paths available in science and technology and reinforced the importance of resilience and adaptability in this field of work. It was empowering to connect with mentors who have not only excelled in their current fields but who have also actively supported the next generation of scientists and leaders.



# Isabel Groten

**High School** Salisbury Composite High School

**Town** Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta

**Lab Placement** Department of Rehabilitation Science, Faculty of rehabilitation Medicine

**Project Title** Validation of Marker and Markerless Motion Capture Systems

**Final Project** <https://doi.org/10.7939/r3-fxts-1610>

**Supporter** Canada Summer Jobs and Andrea Macyk-Davey

## **Describe a Professional Development session that you gained new insight or learned from. What will you take away from it into the future?**

The Art of Networking. This is because I don't particularly like to promote myself but this PD kind of changed my perspective of talking with professionals that I'm not the only one gaining something from the conversation. That the professionals are there for you to ask questions and your enthusiasm is as rewarding to them and it is for you to gain that knowledge from them.

## **Say thank you to someone who had an impact on you this summer.**

Emmanuella (Ella) Osuji. She has been absolutely incredible this summer! She is so kind and fun and always takes the time for me to help me or give me advice! I couldn't have done this without her and I am forever grateful to have had her as my supervisor this summer! There is no one else who has helped or worked with me more than she did!

# Jacqueline Guo

**High School** Lillian Osborne High School

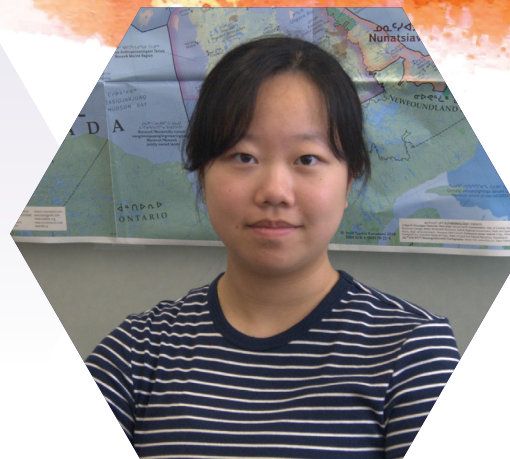
**Town** Edmonton, Alberta

**Lab Placement** School of Public Health

**Project Title** Untangling the Knot: Strengths and Barriers in Developing Mental Health Interventions for Climate/Weather Extremes

**Final Project** <https://doi.org/10.7939/r3-bjaj-dx09>

**Supporter** Canada Summer Jobs and Rotary Club Glenora



## **Describe your favourite social event. Why was this your favourite?**

Some of the best fun I had during the program was when socializing with the cohort. The Heritage Day and Paint Night gave me one of many chances to converse with these exceptionally intelligent and marvellously goofy people in addition to tasting a multitude of cuisines and hearing about different cultures and histories. Unexpectedly, these two social events also helped me get out of a piano performing and drawing/painting slump.

## **Talk about another part of the program that was meaningful to you.**

Although I was initially apprehensive about having other students in the lab, I quickly came to realize how much of a blessing it was to have those in the same position as you there for mutual support. The three of us would often spend hours discussing our projects in the libraries, get lunch together, remind each other to get going for our various events, and occasionally wake each other up with a flurry of messages.



# Aislyn Holland

**High School** Coronation School

**Town** Castor, Alberta

**Lab Placement** Department of Biological Sciences, Faculty of Science

**Project Title** A Modernized Look at Historic Quarries in the Gobi Desert

**Final Project** <https://doi.org/10.7939/r3-sq39-fn42>

**Supporter** Canada Summer Jobs & Faculty of Science

## **What was the Celebration of Research and/or the See Ya Later like for you?**

The Celebration of Research was an incredible experience where I could share the work I had been working on all summer and it made me incredibly proud to share it. The See Ya Later was a bittersweet night where we shared our favourite memories of the program and got to connect one last time.

## **What is something you want future SRP students to know?**

I think it is super important to take time to build strong relationships with the other people in the cohort. It will make every part of the program better.



# Svetlana Hricko

**High School** Spruce Grove Composite High School

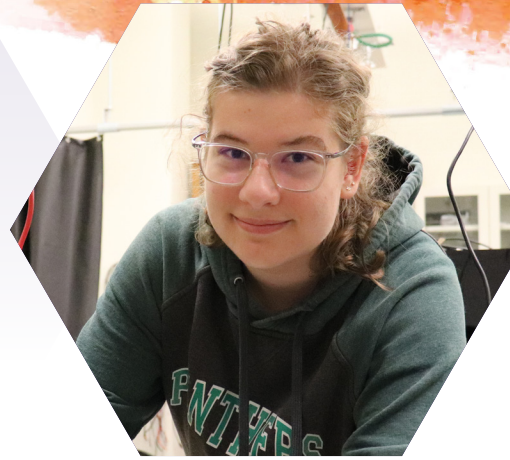
**Town** Spruce Grove, Alberta

**Lab Placement** Department of Physics and Astronomy, Faculty of Science

**Project Title** Cold Atoms: A Way To Quantum Computing?

**Final Project** <https://doi.org/10.7939/r3-dg2a-py54>

**Supporter** Canada Summer Jobs and Motorola Solutions Foundation



**Describe how you felt when you were accepted into the program. How has that changed throughout the program?**

I was so excited and shocked that I screamed and my mom thought there was a spider in my room. It was an exhilarating feeling, and it almost didn't feel real. But I could feel there would be many doors opening for me once the program started.

**Describe your favourite social event. Why was this your favourite?**

Heritage night was my favorite social event, however it is really hard to choose just one social event as they were all so much fun. Heritage night stood out to me as it highlighted the diverse backgrounds that my fellow cohort members had, and the importance of sharing one's culture. Understanding what background my peers came from allowed me not only to understand my cohort members better, but to connect with them on a deeper level.



# Itisaam Ibrahimadan

**High School** M.E. Lazerte School

**Town** Edmonton, Alberta

**Lab Placement** Department of Mechanical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering

**Project Title** Revitalizing Heritage: Totem Pole Restoration Using Additive Manufacturing

**Final Project** <https://doi.org/10.7939/r3-z40v-bv36>

**Supporter** WISEST and Motorola Solutions Foundation

**Describe a panel or networking session that had a profound impact on you and your STEM trajectory.**

The BIPOC Mentor Panel really showed me that individuals, like myself who went through similar experiences I'm going through, can succeed in both the STEM industry and academia! It has been really impactful for me as I live in a world where educated role models who are in or attended university aren't as accessible in my community. It helped me create a network of amazing BIPOC women and gender-diverse people who want to see me succeed in my future pathway!

**Describe your favourite social event. Why was this your favourite?**

My favourite social event was Heritage Day, where we got to try yummy traditional foods from different countries and learn more about other researchers' cultures/practices through presentations, performances, and videos! It is my favourite because I showcased Somalia's traditional dance (Dhaanto). I remember being scared of judgement before performing - but as I was teaching, the cohort and the staff were so eager and excited to learn all the steps which made me feel special and recognized within the 2024 cohort!

# Natalia Jimenez Loza

**High School** Ross Sheppard

**Town** Edmonton, Alberta

**Lab Placement** Department of Biological Sciences, Faculty of Science

**Project Title** Dinosaurs in an Albertan Ghost Town

**Final Project** <https://doi.org/10.7939/r3-5yq5-x437>

**Supporter** Canada Summer Jobs and Faculty of Science

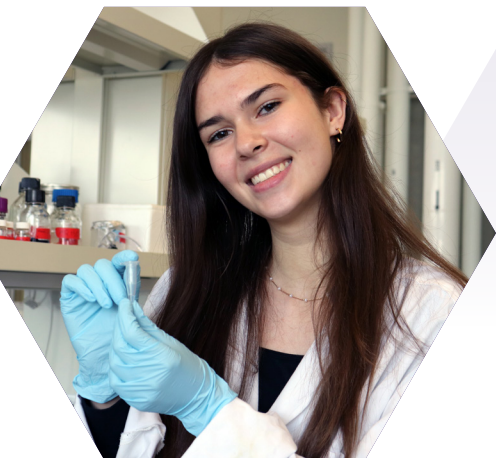


**Describe a Professional Development session that you gained new insight or learned from. What will you take away from it into the future?**

The subjectivity in science was a PD that had a big impact on me. It truly made me think about what we do always will affect someone else.

**Describe a panel or networking session that had a profound impact on you and your STEM trajectory.**

The networking event helped me realize that it is okay to not know what I plan to study in undergrad. It helped me be comfortable in the uncertainty.



# Sara Kam

**High School** St. Paul Regional High School

**Town** St. Paul, Alberta

**Lab Placement** Department of Biological Sciences, Faculty of Science

**Project Title** GPR15L-GFP: Cloning A Novel Fusion Protein for Immune Cell Migration and Visualization Studie

**Final Project** <https://doi.org/10.7939/r3-e9gy-1j45>

**Supporter** Canada Summer Jobs and Syncrude

**Describe how you felt during orientation vs. how you feel now.**

During orientation, looking at all the individuals who surrounded me, I felt I did not belong. I was excited to face the unknown, but I was uncertain if I could do it. Now, I feel deeply connected and thankful, having created meaningful relationships with people who uplift me, and experienced incredible personal growth which has given me confidence in myself.

**What was the best part about residence?**

The best part of residence was undoubtedly the relationships that were created. It was beyond mere friendship; we became a family which fostered a supportive and respectful environment. These inseparable bonds made every moment of the SRP more meaningful and memorable.

# Sarah Khandoker

**High School** Westwood Community High School

**Town** Fort McMurray, Alberta

**Lab Placement** Department of Computing Science, Faculty of Science

**Project Title** Evaluating the Alignment of Reward Functions

**Final Project** <https://doi.org/10.7939/r3-9dne-yw88>

**Supporter** Canada Summer Jobs, Taylor Lab and Syncrude



**Describe a Professional Development session that you gained new insight or learned from. What will you take away from it into the future?**

I did not know how to properly go about doing Land Acknowledgements or what they should have entailed, as most of the ones I witnessed are generalized. While learning about not only the significance, but also the proper method to go about Land Acknowledgement in the Subjectivity in Science Professional Development session,

I hope that I can be more mindful and appreciative of future endeavours.

**What was the best part about residence?**

The best part of residence was becoming more confident in my ability to be an adult (ish). I grew more confident in my ability to take care of myself, and the nervousness of having to move out a year from now was slowly being lifted off my shoulder.



# Anna Konnova

**High School** St. John Paul II Catholic High School

**Town** Grande Prairie, Alberta

**Lab Placement** Department of Physics and Astronomy, Faculty of Science

**Project Title** Exploring Magnetic Fields and Quantum States in Atomic Clouds

**Final Project** <https://doi.org/10.7939/r3-x82h-ze90>

**Supporter** Canada Summer Jobs and International Paper

**Describe how you felt when you were accepted into the program. How has that changed throughout the program?**

When I got the email that I was accepted it was after a long day at school and closing the store at my previous job. I was doing some late night studying and got the email that I was accepted. In that moment I was shocked, no emotions and no actions, just pure shock at the fact I got into the program. I ran upstairs to tell my parents the news and I got myself celebratory ice cream on the way back to bed.

**Describe the impact finding a like-minded community had for you.**

Before joining this program, I often felt a bit disconnected from my classmates. It was difficult to find genuine friends who truly wanted to see me succeed, as most people seemed to view each other as competition. However, being part of this program has shown me that friendship is about much more than test scores or GPA. True friends are the ones who explore new cities with you, help you craft a speech, and accept you for who you are, without any conditions. In the WISEST cohort, we were all equals, united by the same goals and shared purpose.



# Ryan Liang

**High School** Sir Winston Churchill High School

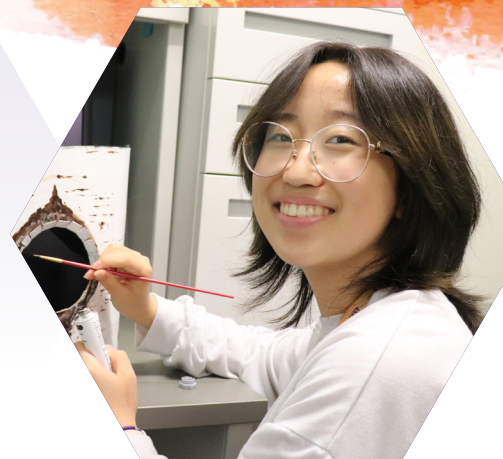
**Town** Calgary, Alberta

**Lab Placement** Department of Biological Sciences, Faculty of Science

**Project Title** Using 3d and 2d Photogrammetry to Maximize the Efficiency of Identifying Pileated Woodpecker Cavities and their Dimensions

**Final Project** <https://doi.org/10.7939/r3-2naf-b472>

**Supporter** Canada Summer Jobs and Faculty of Science



## Tell us about your favourite tour (lab or industry) and why it stood out for you.

Touring Dr. James Harynuk's lab was an incredible opportunity to explore applied chemistry and learn about how intrinsically tied chemistry is to everything in our world. After the tour, I was able to connect with Dr. Harynuk, which allowed for me to find a connection with chemistry, which I had lacked before due to bad experiences in school — it inspired me to continue seeking out knowledge because I enjoyed it, not just for grades, and in turn, helped to influence the path that I want to take in post-secondary education.

## What is something you want future SRP students to know?

Do not feel as though you do not belong simply because you're not "smart enough" to go into STEM — as Dr. Margaret-Ann Armour says, it is not the failure of the person, but a failure of the system. WISEST is working to take down the barriers that prevent non-males from entering STEM fields, and has encouraged myself and others to take the leaps that we thought were impossible. You can do it, you just have to take that first jump.



# Addison Litvinchuk

**High School** Memorial Composite High School

**Town** Stony Plain, Alberta

**Lab Placement** Department of Mechanical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering

**Project Title** Too Hot to Handle: A Data Analysis on the Heat Transfer of the Ex-Alta 1 CubeSat During Re-Entry

**Final Project** <https://doi.org/10.7939/r3-32eb-q920>

**Supporter** Canada Summer Jobs and WISEST

## Describe how you felt during orientation vs. how you feel now.

During orientation, I had constant butterflies in my stomach as I exchanged introductions with my fellow researchers and struggled to take in everything the program's beginnings had to offer. After the CoR, we all stood in the same room that we started and exchanged hugs, thank yous, goodbyes, and tears, as I struggled to take in that the program was ending. I was a new person in the same scenario and couldn't help but reflect on

my personal growth in knowledge, abilities, and, most importantly, confidence.

## Talk about another part of the program that was meaningful to you.

Getting to experience the discussions in the media club was really impactful. I often pondered the philosophical side of science or questioned things that we are doing, but I rarely shared these opinions. Participating in guided discussions where people expressed their views and learning how we can genuinely do science differently was affirming and eye opening at the same time.

# Keira McEwen

**High School** Hines Creek Composite School

**Town** Hines Creek, Alberta

**Lab Placement** Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science

**Project Title** Analysis of Plant Metabolites at Various Stages of its Life Cycle using TD-GCxCX-FID

**Final Project** <https://doi.org/10.7939/r3-dd60-wj46>

**Supporter** Canada Summer Jobs, Harynuk Lab and International Paper



## Describe your favourite social event. Why was this your favourite?

My parents are both teachers at my school so when I found out I had gotten in, I ran across the school to tell them and was jumping up and down in excitement at this newfound opportunity I had been given. However, slowly leading up to the program I felt a sense of guilt and unworthiness that slowly started to disintegrate over the program, instead becoming replaced with a newfound confidence as I started making my way over the steep learning curve. Once I got over this learning curve and started putting myself out there, I was so excited to come into work every day and interact with my lab and work on my project. Now

that the program has come to an end I feel so much more confident in not only my skills but applying to STEM post-secondary.

## Talk about another part of the program that was meaningful to you.

Getting to come into work every single day and work alongside my supervisor on groundbreaking research in plant chemistry was so impactful and an opportunity I never thought I would be able to experience. I grew more and more confident every single day of the program and getting to see how far I've come since the beginning of the program has been so incredibly rewarding.



# Jaime McGale

**High School** Vegreville Composite High School

**Town** Vegreville, Alberta

**Lab Placement** Department of Agricultural, Food and Nutritional Science, Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences

**Project Title** From Farm to Tailings: Modified Keratin for Water Reclamation

**Final Project** <https://doi.org/10.7939/r3-w9pa-jv94>

**Supporter** Canada Summer Jobs and WISEST

## Tell us about your favourite tour (lab or industry) and why it stood out for you.

My favourite was definitely the industry tour to Capital Engineering. I want to study engineering in university and being able to tour a company that I may one day work in was so valuable. Just looking around and picturing myself one day working somewhere like that was so crazy to me.

## What is something you want future SRP students to know?

There is so much more to this program than simply research. You will meet so many amazing people and make valuable connections, learn so many things in the Professional Development Sessions, and although it might seem a little scary at first, you will definitely have fun! Remember to take the time to learn, ask questions and most of all, nurture the friendships you make, because the people you'll meet are just like you.

# Nyx McLean

**High School** St. John Paul II Catholic School

**Town** Grande Prairie, Alberta

**Lab Placement** Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science

**Project Title** Synthesis of chiral [5]cumulenes

**Final Project** <https://doi.org/10.7939/r3-x7zw-bq39>

**Supporter** Canada Summer Jobs and International Paper

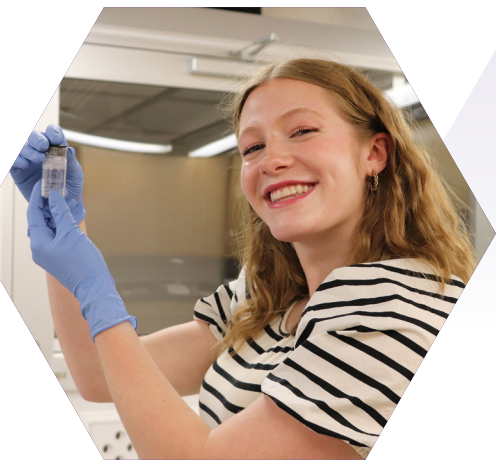


**Describe a Professional Development session that you gained new insight or learned from. What will you take away from it into the future?**

The Allyship and Solidarity Professional Development session was by far my favourite. Talking to people with intersectional identities like myself was an incredible experience that led to insightful conversations.

**Say thank you to someone who had an impact on you this summer.**

I'd like to thank two people, Tino and Freyja. These two lovely people made sure that all of the residents felt safe and were always willing to help us out of town kids navigate the big city. Funny cards, late night talks, check ins that turned into hour long yap sessions are things that I will always cherish.



# Naomi Metz

**High School** Jasper Place High School

**Town** Edmonton, Alberta

**Lab Placement** Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, Faculty of Science

**Project Title** Preparing for Mars Sample Return: Insights from Australian Analogue Samples

**Final Project** <https://doi.org/10.7939/r3-c05r-ms86>

**Supporter** Canada Summer Jobs and Faculty of Science

**Describe a panel or networking session that had a profound impact on you and your STEM trajectory.**

Each networking event had an impact on my STEM identity, but the most profound impact was found through my own lab. Both my supervisor and PI opened my eyes to the possibilities of working with, or doing internships with big corporations like NASA and Canadian Space Agency. The internships I learned about and the connections that I made through my time in the lab never would have been possible without WISEST and the SRP.

**Describe your favourite social event. Why was this your favourite?**

My favorite social event is our last one together, the karaoke night. On this night I felt very connected and comfortable to be my silly self in front of the other people in the SRP. It was one of the most apparent times that I released no one was judging me for being myself.



# Madison Mickla

**High School** Daysland School

**Town** Daysland, Alberta

**Lab Placement** Department of Mechanical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering

**Project Title** Applying Image Based Pose Detection Algorithms to Tello Drone

**Final Project** <https://doi.org/10.7939/r3-n7fg-bc37>

**Supporter** Canada Summer Jobs and WISEST



## Talk about another part of the program that was meaningful to you.

The lab tours we went on were very meaningful to me. It was interesting to learn about all the different types of research being conducted at the U of A. Even though not all of it was necessarily in a field I wanted to pursue, it was incredible to see what the university has to offer.

## Say thank you to someone who had an impact on you this summer.

I want to sincerely thank my supervisor, Joshua, for taking time out of his day to guide me through coding and programming. It certainly wasn't easy, but he was patient and encouraged me to use my problem-solving skills until I succeeded. The skills I learned this summer, thanks to him, are something I will definitely carry with me into the future.



# Dinithi Perera

**High School** Medicine Hat High School

**Town** Medicine Hat, Alberta

**Lab Placement** Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry

**Project Title** Assessing the Effectiveness of Engineered Probiotic Yeast at Attacking Pathogenic Clostridium Perfringens

**Final Project** <https://doi.org/10.7939/r3-m57q-yb75>

**Supporter** Canada Summer Jobs and WISEST

## Describe your favourite social event. Why was this your favourite?

My favourite social event was the Wiser/UA-Wise Bubble Tea Night because I enjoyed getting to talk to various members of the WISEST community about their current academic/career settings and seeing how WISEST has impacted them as well. Getting to talk with people at different points in their career and hearing the multiple paths someone can take gave me newfound knowledge as to not feeling limited in one career or field of study.

## Talk about another part of the program that was meaningful to you.

One thing that I think should remain in the program is the BIPOC affinity group. Being a part of this group has allowed me to hear other's experiences and how they've shaped their life and goals for the future. In this group, I could relate to some people's stories which made me feel more connected with others in the program, but it also helped me to understand the challenges some cultures continue to face.

# Taylor Porter

**High School** Paul William Kaeser High School

**Town** Fort Smith, Northwest Territories

**Lab Placement** Department of Mechanical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering

**Project Title** Numerical Investigation on the Strength of 17-4 Ph Stainless Steel Structures Fabricated Using Wire Arc Additive Manufacturing

**Final Project** <https://doi.org/10.7939/r3-848k-w172>

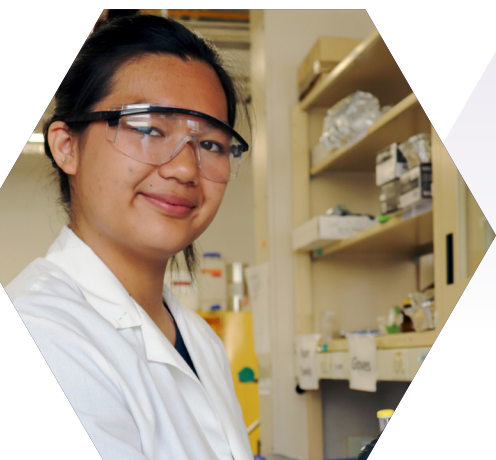
**Supporter** Canada Summer Jobs and International Paper

**Describe how you felt during orientation vs. how you feel now.**

During orientation day I felt very nervous. I was unsure about why I was here, or if I would make any friends. Now that the program is over I can tell you how wrong I was. I feel so accomplished and proud of the work I have done and not only that, but the friendships I have made I cherish so much. I found a community of people who are kind and genuine.

**Describe the impact finding a like-minded community had for you.**

Finding a community of headstrong, academically motivated, energetic, (and a bit nerdy) people was one of the best things to happen to me. There is a part of myself that these people bring out and I am forever grateful to have met and connected with them.



# Keiona Reyes

**High School** Holy Trinity Catholic High School

**Town** Edmonton, Alberta

**Lab Placement** Department of Agricultural, Food and Nutritional Science, Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences

**Project Title** Chicken Feathers: The Future of Metal Recovery From Waste Water

**Final Project** <https://doi.org/10.7939/r3-0nex-7926>

**Supporter** Canada Summer Jobs and WISEST

**Tell us about your favourite tour (lab or industry) and why it stood out for you.**

My favourite lab tour was the pavement lab, where a civil engineer showed the different ways that they test asphalt for road design. I found it very interesting that so many different variables that I did not expect to be considered, come into place to answer one question; What makes a good road?

**Describe a Professional Development session that you gained new insight or learned from. What will you take away from it into the future?**

A PD session which made a huge impact for me was a session on solidarity. In this session I found out that I was not alone in any of my experiences as a person of colour. I learned that although it is hard to fight for what is right, it must be done.

# Jada Sanford

**High School** J.R. Robson School

**Town** Vermilion, Alberta

**Lab Placement** Department of Renewable Resources, Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences

**Project Title** Effects of Sulfur Fertilizers on Canola Yield and Nutrient Uptake

**Final Project** <https://doi.org/10.7939/r3-nzxd-j211>

**Supporter** Canada Summer Jobs and WISEST



## **Describe the impact finding a like-minded community had for you.**

My peers in WISEST had a significant impact on my perspective on the world. Because I don't have many friends from school my mom would always tell me that I would find my people, I just had to wait and I believe that I have found my people during this program. I am so incredibly happy about meeting my people and I will

always cherish and never let go of my relationships with these people.

## **What is something you want future SRP students to know?**

Participate in the program as much as possible. You were chosen for this program from hundreds of people. Squeeze out every last drop of it and cherish it.



# Ellerton Smith

**High School** F.G. Miller Jr/Sr High School

**Town** Elk Point, Alberta

**Lab Placement** Department of Mechanical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering

**Project Title** Accessible Robotics: Developing an Interactive Game for Visually Impaired Children Using Tactile Blocks and Robotics

**Final Project** <https://doi.org/10.7939/r3-smg9-za68>

**Supporter** WISEST and Motorola Solutions Foundation

## **Describe a panel or networking session that had a profound impact on you and your STEM trajectory.**

There were so many engineers in all of the panels and networking sessions, and all of them were doing such different (but amazing) things. It made me realize just how many different paths you can take with an engineering degree. Now, even though I don't know entirely what kind of job I want, I'm more sure that I want to go into engineering and that I'll be able to find something that I like!

## **What was the Celebration of Research and/or the See Ya Later like for you?**

So bittersweet! On one hand I was so happy to see everyone's work come together after six weeks! But on the other hand, I knew that we wouldn't all be going to work in our labs the next day and wouldn't see each other at events anymore.



# Linda Tennekoon

**High School** St. Joseph High School

**Town** Edmonton, Alberta

**Lab Placement** Department of Biological Sciences, Faculty of Science

**Project Title** Tooth Trails: Tyrannosaurid Tooth Measurement and Spacing

**Final Project** <https://doi.org/10.7939/r3-hy5w-bh10>

**Supporter** WISEST and Faculty of Science

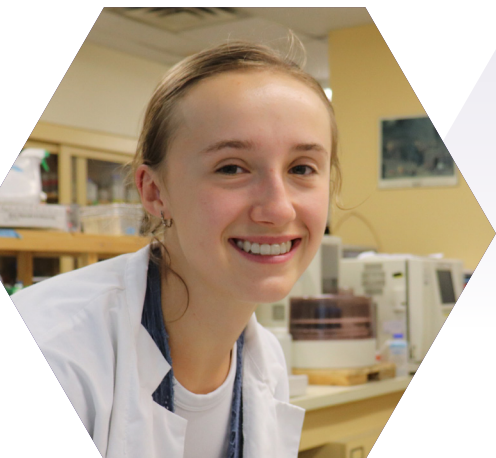


**Describe how you felt when you were accepted into the program. How has that changed throughout the program?**

I was thrilled and excited to be accepted. I did feel a bit nervous and scared about going outside of my comfort zone to make friends and felt stressed that I wouldn't be able to understand concepts. However, all of these lingering doubts went away throughout my time in WISEST. I gained more confidence in myself, made many new friends, and successfully finished my poster with new knowledge.

**Describe your favourite social event. Why was this your favourite?**

All of the social nights are my favorite, but if I had to pick one, it would be Paint Night with Ingrid Pederson. Though painting a sunset may seem like a standard painting, the people I was with added to the magic. I noticed how everyone is uniquely artistic when painting and drawing, opening my eyes to the fact that even if we are all painting the same topic, it looks different for each person.



# Rayna Thoms

**High School** McNally High School

**Town** Edmonton, Alberta

**Lab Placement** Department of Renewable Resources, Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences

**Project Title** Nitrogen Management Practices For High Canola Yield and Environmental Benefits In Alberta

**Final Project** <https://doi.org/10.7939/r3-snh7-7t68>

**Supporter** Canada Summer Jobs and WISEST

**What was the Celebration of Research and/or the See Ya Later like for you?**

The See Ya Later was extremely bittersweet, as it was the last time to talk to the majority of the cohort during the program. I was happy it was before the Celebration of Research (COR), because I feel like it allowed me to better accept that the end was here, and thus I enjoyed the COR more. I thought that presenting my research poster would feel more like recapping my whole summer in a few minutes, but as I explained it to people, I began to understand how much the research was the tiny tip of a massive iceberg.

**What is something you want future SRP students to know?**

This might be an ironic piece of advice, but listen to the advice of the SRP alumni. I remember on orientation day really taking to heart what the mentors said about their regrets in the program, the most prominent being "I wish I had attended more social events or gotten more involved with the other students". So when the evenings came and karaoke and escape room night sounded more exhausting than fun, I remembered what they said, and it pushed me to go and inevitably have a blast.

# Daria Tsybukova

**High School** Paul Kane High School

**Town** St. Albert, Alberta

**Lab Placement** Department of Mechanical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering

**Project Title** Investigation of Near-Net-Shape Fabrication out of Low-Carbon Steel Through Wire-Arc Additive Manufacturing (WAAM)

**Final Project** <https://doi.org/10.7939/r3-8kn4-1g49>

**Supporter** WISEST and Motorola Solutions Foundation



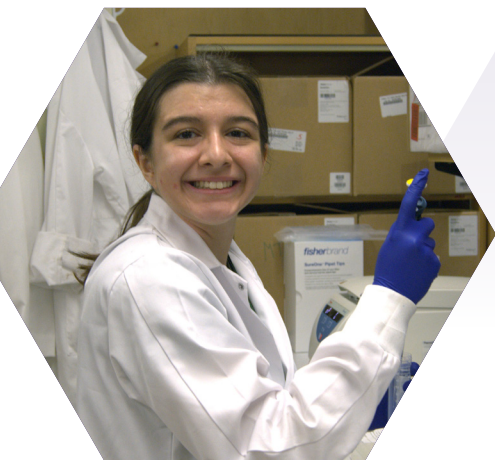
**Describe how you felt when you were accepted into the program. How has that changed throughout the program?**

Upon acceptance it was a mix of emotions; it was pride, I had a “WOW they really picked me” moment, and what exactly does this mean now?. Primarily it was pride and relief, as I felt all my efforts to get to this point have been validated. It stayed pretty much the same throughout the program, as the validation continued through the

work I put in. Seeing an outcome to my efforts was always rewarding.

**Talk about another part of the program that was meaningful to you.**

The program opened up limitless doors full of resources. It was meaningful to have access to all these tools and know that there are people who can guide you through them. Simply having the support was amazing and there was always someone willing to help you.



# Isabelle Virani

**High School** Queen Elizabeth High School

**Town** Edmonton, Alberta

**Lab Placement** Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutritional Science, Faculty of Agricultural, Life & Environmental Sciences

**Project Title** Mini but Mighty: Assessing Liming Effects on Soil Biota Communities

**Final Project** <https://doi.org/10.7939/r3-zmds-7v91>

**Supporter** Canada Summer Jobs and WISEST

**Describe a Professional Development session that you gained new insight or learned from. What will you take away from it into the future?**

Over the course of the program, there were many professional development sessions that helped to change my perspective of science, but I would say that the one I always reflect on is the Art of Networking. Networking is a skill that is crucial for success in one’s career, as it allows one to build connections to people who may have opportunities for future development. Throughout the summer, I sent out many emails connecting with mentors and in the future, the skills practiced through these emails will continue to be applicable to my career development and success.

**Say thank you to someone who had an impact on you this summer.**

There were many people who had an impact on me, but none had as great an impact as the WISEST staff who worked tirelessly on making our cohort’s summer experience fruitful, giving us every opportunity to experience growth in both our character and confidence. For me, this impact is clear through the personable connection the staff formed with all of us. Throughout the busy summer, I got the support I needed from WISEST staff through check-ins, and I would not be in this position without their dedication towards our success, so thank you to the team for making this summer possible.

# Kate Vovchuk

**High School** Edwin Parr Composite High School

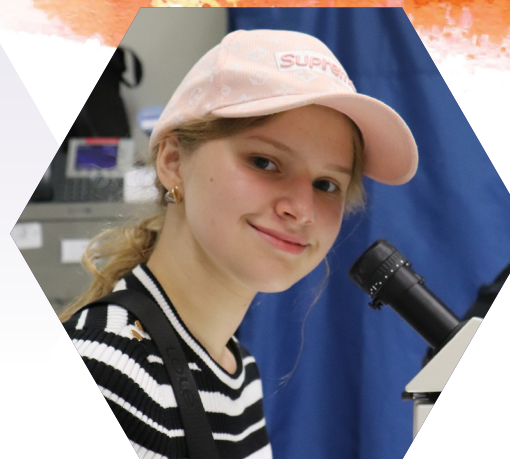
**Town** Athabasca, Alberta

**Lab Placement** Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute, Faculty of Science

**Project Title** When AI Meets Lichenology: Comparing the Identification Accuracy of *Physcia aipolia*

**Final Project** <https://doi.org/10.7939/r3-yrdc-3935>

**Supporter** WISEST and Syncrude



## Describe the impact finding a like-minded community had for you.

We are most powerful when we are united. Meeting 40 people who are as passionate about science and making a difference as I am makes me sure that the future of the world is going to be bright.

## Say thank you to someone who had an impact on you this summer.

I would like to say thank you to the WISEST coordinators. They are not only a voice of underrepresented groups in STEM, but they are actively recruiting new faces into this field. New people, to whom this may have seemed so unreachable, so unrealistic, making their dreams, their passions become a reality.



# Leena Yassin

**High School** Queen Elizabeth High School

**Town** Edmonton, Alberta

**Lab Placement** Department of Renewable Resources, Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences

**Project Title** Using Archived Soil Samples to Examine Carbon Sequestration after 20 Years of Conservation Tillage in Alberta, Canada

**Final Project** <https://doi.org/10.7939/r3-2rs4-pq42>

**Supporter** WISEST

## Describe how you felt when you were accepted into the program. How has that changed throughout the program?

For the first few days/weeks that I got accepted into the WISEST program, it felt so surreal. The six weeks quickly flew by, but I gained so many practical skills and knowledge I could use to help my future. The amount of love and care I gained from my WISEST experience was immense, which made me grow my confidence and made my self doubt disappear.

## What was the Celebration of Research and/or the See Ya Later like for you?

The Celebration of Research was very easy, as the people you were presenting to were genuinely interested in your research or just wanted you to succeed. The WISEST community really helped out with my self confidence, so presenting to others felt very empowering.



# Natalie Zabrowski

**High School** Bishop O'Byrne High School

**Town** Calgary, Alberta

**Lab Placement** Department of Biological Sciences, Faculty of Science

**Project Title** The NWSAR Project and the Data Processing Cycle at the ABMI

**Final Project** <https://doi.org/10.7939/r3-zm1b-rz67>

**Supporter** WISEST and Isomass Scientific



## **Tell us about your favourite tour (lab or industry) and why it stood out for you.**

I'm split between two options, the Dino Lab tour and the Innotech Alberta/API lab tour. The Dino Lab tour was fantastic because I saw so many super cool things that I already had a huge interest in - but the Innotech and API lab tours allowed me to really understand what working in industry is like for a scientist, as well as introduce me to some really interesting ways of using a science degree in the real world!

## **What is something you want future SRP students to know?**

I want future SRP students to know that someday, you will find a place that's right for you. It could be somewhere like WISEST, or it may be somewhere you may have to build from the ground up - but either way, there will be a space for you that you know is where you belong.