



IBT Summer Intern Wins Presidential Scholarship

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When Xinchun Wang began a summer internship at the Institute of Biosciences and Technology in June 2004, little did she know that a year later she would be traveling to Washington D.C. with 140 other newly-named Presidential Scholars. But before that trip, on May 29, this eighteen-year-old student at Bellaire High School will graduate sixth in her class from the high school located in a suburb of Houston that annually produces graduates destined for prestigious colleges. In the fall Xinchun will go to Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut, where she will study a combination of law, economics and sciences.



She credits her work in the laboratory of Dr. Wallace McKeehan for opening her eyes to science research. In high school she took courses in biology, chemistry and physics, taking a second year in biology because it was her favorite. Dr. McKeehan's lab focuses on the biology of cancer.

"I enjoyed learning how to use the lab's different equipment and techniques and liked the involvement of the whole science team," she notes. Looking to the future, she says, "I am excited about the potential of stem cell research in treating deadly diseases."

Presidential scholars are honored for their accomplishments in academics or the arts, as well as for their leadership, character and civic contributions during a four-day celebration in Washington, D.C., June 25-28. The scholars' agenda includes educational seminars,

meetings with representatives of all three branches of the federal government, a morning of community service, an exhibition of scholars' artwork, and a public performance at the Kennedy Center by the Presidential Scholars in the Arts. Events culminate with presentation of Presidential Scholars Medallions in a ceremony sponsored by the White House.

Although Xinchun does not know anyone else who will be going to Yale in the fall, her best friend will attend the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. "Luckily our schools are pretty close, so we can meet up," Xinchun says. Clearly, exciting travel is in her future.

For a list of the 141 Presidential Scholars named for 2005, including the four named in Texas, see <http://www.ed.gov/news/pressreleases/2005/05/05032005.html>

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